PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

FESTIVAL TICKETS NOW ON SALE
PAGE 8

Dream gardens

in England, USA, Spain and Australia

Planting and design trends FOR 2017

How to make stylish garden structures

15 great gardens to visit for culture lovers

NEW SERIES
Richard Mabey on gardens and nature

ALITEX™

GREENHOUSES AND CONSERVATORIES

National Trust

THE NATIONAL TRUST GREENHOUSE COLLECTION

www.alitex.co.uk 01730 826900

editor's letter

Who doesn't enjoy dreaming of sunnier times and making holiday plans while in the midst of winter? As is our tradition, the January issue is dedicated to beautiful gardens around the globe as we travel – albeit vicariously – in search of remarkable places, plants and people. From a dreamy garden in Norfolk, complete with medieval moat, to a plant lover's paradise in Tasmania, there's a wealth of design and planting insights from accomplished garden makers. For those eager to start gardening again, gardener-cook Jojo Tulloh ensures you're all set for spring by recommending her favourite seed suppliers, and designer Kristy Ramage and gardener Jacky Mills begin their three-part series on how to create garden structures – from little twiggy plant protectors to elaborate supports. And for planting ideas, Matthew Biggs takes a look at the best annual climbers, which can cover walls and trellises in record time. I'm delighted that the celebrated nature writer Richard Mabey starts his occasional series this issue, beginning with his reflections on the garden as a stage for the varied characters that inhabit it. Behind the scenes, preparations for the *Gardens Illustrated* Festival are moving apace. The two-day event will take place near the pretty market town of Tetbury over the weekend of 25-26 March and we've got an exciting line up of world-class speakers, exhibitors selling garden-related products and a drop-in clinic of design and garden experts. This month we have an exclusive reader offer on tickets, see page 8 for details. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the issue and wish you a very happy 2017.

Juliet

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Dream gardens
15

Save money when you **subscribe to the digital edition** – see page 30

Discover a lavender-filled Spanish garden that sits beautifully within the landscape, page 64.

Step-by-step guide to making your own hurdles and plant supports, page 80.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

FERGUS GARRETT
Plantsman and head gardener at Great Dixter in East Sussex.

CAROL KLEIN
Plantswoman and presenter of BBC *Gardeners' World*.

DANIEL J HINKLEY
American plantsman, planthunter, horticultural writer and lecturer.

ALYS FOWLER
Kew-trained gardener, author and television presenter.

DAN PEARSON
Garden designer, plantsman and columnist.

CLAIRE TAKACS, JASON INGRAM

contents

JANUARY 2017

64

80

ON THE COVER

Dream gardens pages 32, 42, 64, 74
Planting and design trends for 2017 pages 20, 92
Stylish garden structures page 80
Great gardens to visit for culture lovers page 60
Richard Mabey page 50

COVER IMAGE
Hindringham Hall in Norfolk
Photograph by
Claire Takacs

Plants

20 **Top plants for 2017** Ten plant experts tell us about the plants they're most excited to be growing in their gardens in 2017

52 **Plant profile: annual climbers** Matthew Biggs suggests some of the prettiest annual climbers for adding colour and interest, all of which will grow and flower within a year

80 **Natural garden structures** In the first of a new three-part series we champion the return to favour of garden supports using natural materials

Places

32 **Reflected glory** In the grounds around their historic, moated house in Norfolk, Lynda and Charles Tucker have combined formal and informal planting with a practical approach that results in a relaxed romantic appeal

42 **Ahead of the curve** A garden tucked into a peaceful and sheltered valley on the island of Tasmania proved the perfect location for Sally Johannsohn to indulge her love of rare and unusual cool-climate plants

50 **All the earth's a stage** The first of an occasional series from writer Richard Mabey in which he reflects on the drama between gardens and nature

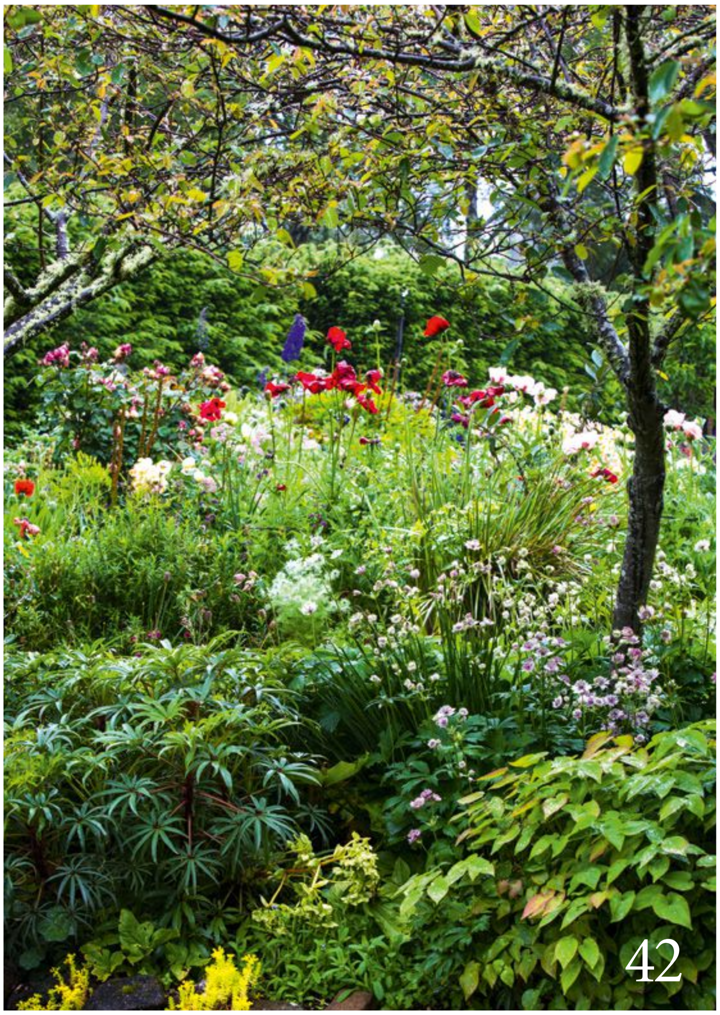
60 **Culture in the garden** We select 15 glorious gardens to visit where you can immerse yourself in art, literature, science, politics and music

64 **In plain sight** Design duo Miguel Urquijo and Renate Kastner have taken the vast plains of central Spain as the inspiration for a stylish and sustainable garden

74 **Devil in the detail** The hot and dry Californian climate required the owners of Rancho Diablo to consider plant usage carefully. Their resulting desert-adapted design is fiendishly clever

CLAIRE TAKACS, JASON INGRAM

Subscribe & save
take out a digital subscription to *Gardens Illustrated* see page 30



42

32

People

72 **Who's who** James Corner, the landscape architect behind New York's High Line, on how public-space design can drive regeneration
114 **January blues** The start of a new year brings pruning to mind for columnist Frank Ronan

Design

87 **Design update** Including news of the new Maggie's Centre garden in Southampton, designed by Sarah Price, and Melbourne's temporary cultural pavilion
92 **Design trends** With global environmental concerns playing an increasing concern, what will be the garden design trends for 2017? We ask the experts for their insights
95 **Design sourcebook** We pick nine of the most stylish holders to keep your garden hose tidy

CLAIRE TAKACS

Regulars

3 **Editor's letter**
6 **Contributors**
11 **Dig in** What's new this month, plus our round up of garden shows for the year ahead
17 **Kitted out** for the Danish art of *hygge*
25 **Gardener cook** columnist Jojo Tulloh recommends her favourite seed suppliers
29 **Gardening talent** Meet Portuguese gardener Maria Olivia de Castro Tavares
30 **Subscription offer** Save money on the cover price and never miss an issue when you take out a subscription to *Gardens Illustrated*
100 **Books** Our pick of the latest gardening books, including the new style bible *Gardenista*
105 **Crossword and how to buy back issues**
106 **Shop** Find your ideal gardening kit at the *Gardens Illustrated* online shop
113 **Next issue** What's coming up in February

EVENTS AND OFFERS

- Book your tickets for the ***Gardens Illustrated* Festival** 2017, being held on 25-26 March at the magnificent house and grounds of Westonbirt School in the Cotswolds. We've a special offer this month, too when you buy a pair of tickets – page 8
- Save money and never miss an issue when you **subscribe to *Gardens Illustrated*** – page 30

CICERONI
TRAVEL

CULTURAL TOURS,
PRIVATE VIEWS AND STUDY DAYS

Our visits are led by experts whose passion and authority on their subjects are equal to their sense of hospitality, attention to detail and above all, their sense of fun.

AN ISLAND PARADISE:
COUNTRY HOUSES OF BARBADOS
15 - 23 MARCH 2017 WITH JULIET BARCLAY

OTIUM:
THE VILLAS & GARDENS OF FLORENCE
2 - 6 MAY 2017 WITH CAROLINE HOLMES

THE GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL:
MUSIC & GARDENS IN SUSSEX
7 - 11 AUGUST 2017 WITH TOM DUNCAN

LAVENDER LANDSCAPES:
SUMMER IN PROVENCE
13 - 19 JUNE 2017 WITH CAROLINE HOLMES

FORTY SHADES OF GREEN:
THE GARDENS OF IRELAND
9 - 14 JULY 2017 WITH JIMI BLAKE

County Wicklow, Jimi Blake's Hunting Brook Gardens

To request a brochure please call, email or visit our website:
+44 (0) 1869 811167 | INFO@CICERONI.CO.UK
WWW.CICERONI.CO.UK

contributors

JOCHEN BRAUN

RICHARD MABEY

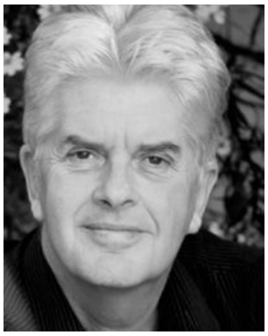
Richard has written some 40 books, most recently *The Cabaret of Plants: Botany and the Imagination*. On page 50, his new series considers what might happen if the garden were a stage for an improvised drama, with other species having an equal role in the plot and casting.

"I've set this series in our garden in Norfolk, whose stars include plant-based sculpture and autonomous slime-moulds."

ALICE PATTULLO

Alice is an illustrator working in east London on commissioned works and her own limited-edition prints. Her work often explores British traditions, customs and folklore. She works with brush and ink, and cut and collaged painted textures. Turn to page 50 to see her work.

"Richard Mabey describes his garden as an 'open stage,' which I referenced in my illustration with Victorian paper toy theatres."



CHRISTOPHER WOODS

Christopher is a gardener and gadabout living in California. Trained at Kew, he moved to the USA and was director and chief designer of Chanticleer in Pennsylvania. He travels the world in search of good gardens like Rancho Diablo this month. See what he found on page 74.

"A dynamic work of horticultural art, it was a pleasure getting to know the plants and people that make this garden so wonderful."

MARCUS HARPUR

WIDGET FINN

Widget is a business journalist who relaxes by writing about other people's gardens and enjoying her own two acres in Suffolk. On page 32, she takes a trip over the border into Norfolk to visit the romantic garden of Hindringham Hall, a hidden Tudor gem.

"Medieval fishponds, a moated manor house, connections with Henry VIII – Hindringham has them all. What a discovery!"

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES AND BACK ISSUES

☎ **UK** 0844 844 0253
USA/CANADA 1 866 464 8103 (TOLL-FREE)
REST OF THE WORLD +44 (0)1795 414721

🖱 **UK** gardensillustrated@servicehelpline.co.uk
buysubscriptions.com/gardensillustrated
USA/CANADA GILcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com
britsubs.com/garden

✉ **UK/REST OF THE WORLD** *Gardens Illustrated*, Subscriptions,
Dovetail Services, PO Box 279, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DF.
USA/CANADA *Gardens Illustrated*, PO BOX 37495, Boone,
IA 50037-0495 USA.

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

☎ +44 (0)117 314 8817 🖱 heather.golden@immediate.co.uk

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES

☎ +44 (0)117 314 7440 🖱 gardens@gardensillustrated.com

✉ *Gardens Illustrated*, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited,
2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

SYNDICATION & LICENSING

Gardens Illustrated is available for licensing and syndication.

☎ +44 (0)117 314 8782 🖱 emma.brunt@immediate.co.uk

APP SUPPORT

For App support please visit apps.immediate.co.uk/support

We abide by IPSO's rules and regulations. To give feedback about our magazines, please visit Immediate.co.uk, email editorialcomplaints@immediate.co.uk or write to Katherine Conlon, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

EDITORIAL	
Editor	Juliet Roberts
Contributing editors	Alys Fowler, Fergus Garrett, Daniel J Hinkley, Carol Klein and Dan Pearson
Art director	David Grenham
Deputy editor	Sorrel Everton
Deputy art editor	Niki Goss
Production editor	Juliet Giles
Designer	Liam McAuley
Editorial assistant	Alys Hurn
Botanical adviser	Dr James Compton
Thanks this issue	Amanda Robinson
ADVERTISING	
Advertising manager	Heather Golden **0117 314 8817** heather.golden@immediate.co.uk
Senior brand sales executive	Katie Gibbons **0117 933 8072** katie.gibbons@immediate.co.uk
Brand sales executive	Olivia Charlesworth **0117 314 8361** olivia.charlesworth@immediate.co.uk
Classified sales executive	Max Spalton **0117 300 8530** max.spalton@immediate.co.uk
USA advertising representative	Kate Buckley buckley@buckleypell.com
Advertising designer	Matt Gynn
INSERTS	
Laurence Robertson	+353 (0)876 902208
CIRCULATION, MARKETING, PRESS & PR	
Newstrade manager	Rob Brock
Subscriptions director	Jacky Perales-Morris
Direct marketing manager	Aimee Rhymer
Press officer	Dom Lobley dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk
MANAGEMENT	
Chairman	Stephen Alexander
Chief executive officer	Tom Bureau
Managing director, Bristol	Andy Marshall
Publisher	Marie Davies
Publishing assistant	Rosa Sherwood
SYNDICATION AND LICENSING	
Director of licensing and syndication	Tim Hudson
PRODUCTION	
Production director	Sarah Powell
Production co-ordinator	Emily Mounter

IMMEDIATE MEDIA CO

THIS MAGAZINE IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY IMMEDIATE MEDIA COMPANY BRISTOL

Standard subscription rates: UK £58.50 per annum; Eire and Europe £54.10 for 13 issues; rest of the world £64.95 for 13 issues. Distribution Frontline, Peterborough. US distribution Source IPD/Speedimpex. Email intlquery@seymour.co.uk Printed in the UK by William Gibbons Ltd. *Gardens Illustrated* (ISSN 0968-8920) (USPS 015-608) is published 13 times a year (monthly with a Special issue in December) by Immediate Media Company Bristol, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN, UK. Distributed in the US by Circulation Specialists, LLC, 2 Corporate Drive, Ste. 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodical postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495. Unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or transparencies are accepted on the understanding that the publishers incur no liability for their storage or return. The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and may not be reproduced without permission. The *Gardens Illustrated* cover is printed on 250gsm Respecta Gloss produced in Belgium by Burgo; the china clay filler is supplied from the UK. The Immediate Media Company Limited is working to ensure that all of its paper is sourced from well-managed forests. This magazine can be recycled for use in newspapers and packaging. Please remove any gifts, samples or wrapping and dispose of it at your local collection point. All prices are correct at time of going to press. © Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited 2017. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. ISSN 0968-8920.

recycle

abc Jan-Dec 2015 38,471* *Combined print and digital sales

TENDERCARE
Plants & Outdoor Living

TENDERCARE

20 ACRES OF PLANT NURSERY
EASIGRASS
WATER FEATURES
LANDSCAPING SERVICES
GARDEN DESIGN CENTRE
COFFEE SHOP
ACCESSORIES
VERTICAL WALL GARDENS

Visit our Covered Winter Display Gardens

CROWN PAVILIONS

MATURE & FORMAL HARDY PLANTS
PLANT SOURCING, PLANTING & WARRANTY
FLEXIBLE NATIONWIDE DELIVERY

01895 835 544
www.tendercare.co.uk
Southlands Road, Denham, Middlesex UB9 4HD
sales@tendercare.co.uk

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Festival

25-26 March 2017, Westonbirt School, Tetbury

Book your tickets now and join us at our Festival to
celebrate gardens, gardening, plants and design

SAVE 20% ON A 2ND TICKET*

We are delighted to be hosting our second *Gardens Illustrated* Festival, which takes place on 25-26 March 2017 in the magnificent buildings and gardens of Westonbirt School, close to the Cotswold town of Tetbury.

Drawing together an exciting programme of speakers, the two days will be packed with horticultural discussion and discovery.

Stepping out of the school buildings, on to the terraced lawns, you'll find our shopping marquee selling a carefully chosen selection of plants from specialist nurseries, and gardening goods from some of our favourite companies and artisan makers. There's also the opportunity to book a free plant and design clinic session with one of our expert horticulturists and designers.

- **January offer*** Buy tickets for any talk and you'll receive a 20 per cent discount on a second ticket for the same event, so you can take a friend or partner. Or, as 26 March is Mother's Day, you could treat your mum.

Speakers for 2017 include: James Alexander-Sinclair, Julian and Isabel Bannerman, Jinny Blom, Val Bourne, Helen Dillon, Nigel Dunnett, Marina Christopher, Annie Guilfoyle, Andy Hamilton, Mary Keen, Noël Kingsbury, Roy Lancaster, Arne Maynard, Jekka McVicar, Ann-Marie Powell, Sarah Raven, Tim Richardson, Charlie Ryrie, Troy Scott Smith, Tom Stuart-Smith, Cleve West

For booking and details of all events go to

gardensfestival.com
or call 0871 230 7156

calls cost 13p per minute plus network extras. Lines open 24 hours a day.

ILLUSTRATIONS VICTORIA SIMPSON. BACKGROUND IMAGE: TETRA IMAGES / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO, 2015 FESTIVAL IMAGES BY JASON INGRAM; PORTRAIT OF HELEN DILLON JANE SEBIRE, PORTRAIT OF THE BANNERMANS ANDREW MONTGOMERY, PORTRAIT OF JINNY BLOM NATHALIE JOUAN.

---

* To receive the discount on the second ticket you must purchase your first ticket at full-price. Enter the code MD20 when prompted, and the discount of 20% will apply to the second ticket only. Both tickets must be for the same event. Offer applies to tickets purchased from 1 January 2017 to 11:59pm on 31 January 2017 only.

An invitation to get your hands dirty
WOODLAND
TRUST

It's time to get your hands dirty.
Roll up your sleeves and get stuck in to save threatened woodland. With tree planting rates at an all-time low we need your support now more than ever before.

Join the Woodland Trust today and help us plant 64 million new native trees – we'll even send you your very own free rowan sapling – because every tree makes a difference.

woodlandtrust.org.uk/treeoffer

Join the Woodland Trust today from
£3 a month
Every new member receives a **free tree!***

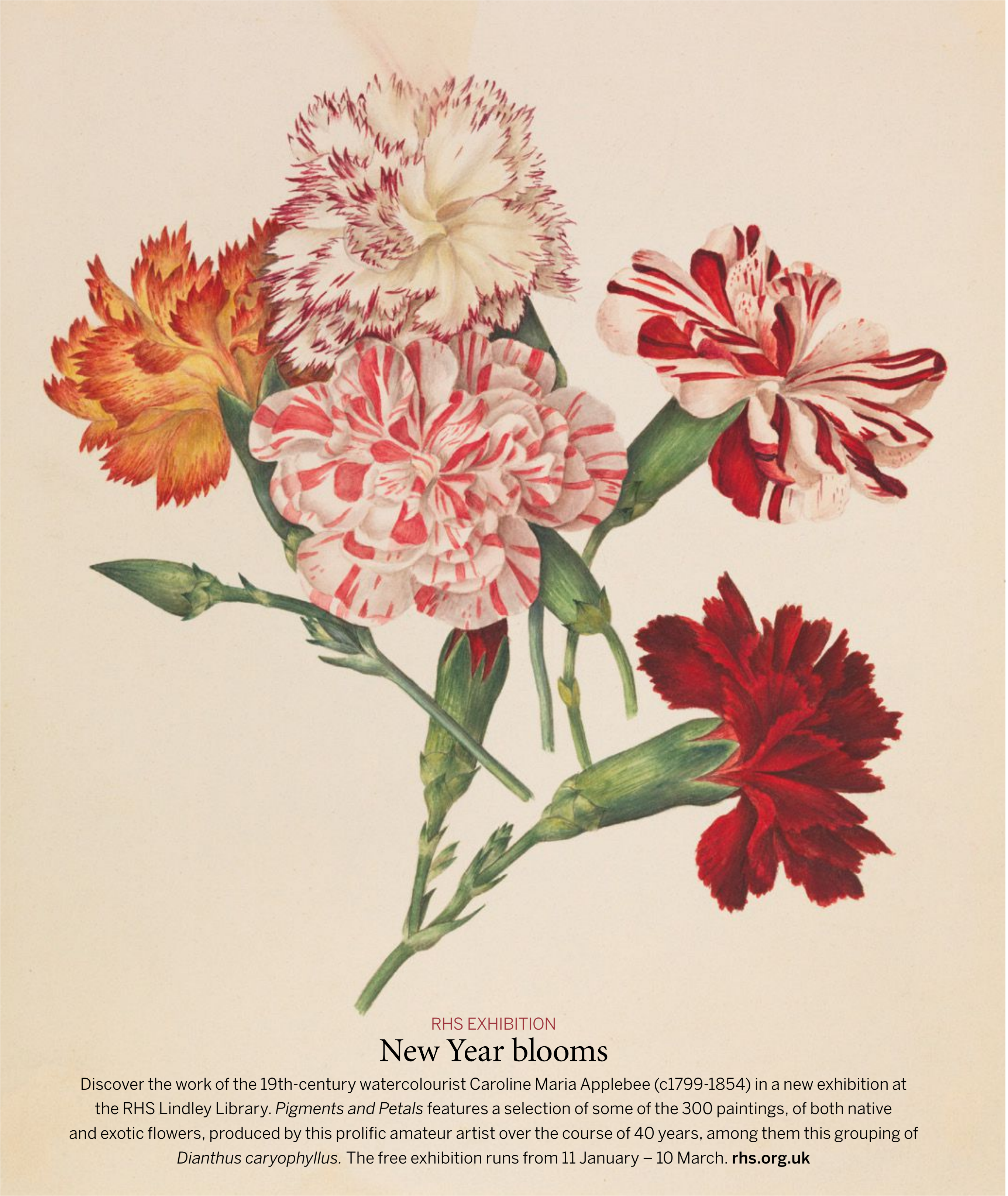
*For a limited time only and while stocks last. One rowan sapling per each adult membership.

Registered charity numbers 294344 and SC038885

Dig in

What's happening, where to go, what's in flower and what to buy this month

NEWS COMPILED BY **ALYS HURN**



RHS EXHIBITION

New Year blooms

Discover the work of the 19th-century watercolourist Caroline Maria Applebee (c1799-1854) in a new exhibition at the RHS Lindley Library. *Pigments and Petals* features a selection of some of the 300 paintings, of both native and exotic flowers, produced by this prolific amateur artist over the course of 40 years, among them this grouping of *Dianthus caryophyllus*. The free exhibition runs from 11 January – 10 March. **rhs.org.uk**

RHS LINDLEY LIBRARY

White Cottage Greenhouses

Victorian ref. 461

Specialists in the design, production and installation
of bespoke traditional glasshouses

For a free estimate call 01270 753826
Or request a brochure at www.whitecottage.co.uk

READER OFFER

Festival friend

To get the new year off to a great gardening start, we are offering readers an exclusive deal on tickets to the *Gardens Illustrated* Festival, 25-26 March. This January, if you book a full-price ticket for one of the talks, you can get a 20 per cent discount on a second ticket for the same event (use code MD20), meaning you can take a friend or partner with you – or as it's Mother's Day that weekend, why not treat your mother? Find out more about the Festival, our speakers and how to buy tickets on page 8.

SNOWDROP SENSATIONS

Galanthophiles can admire rare snowdrop species and cultivars from renowned collections and leading snowdrop growers at Harvey's Garden Plants on 21 January. Visitors can also enjoy 20 per cent off selected plants. 10am-2pm. £2.50. harveysgardenplants.co.uk

NATURAL BEAUTY PRODUCTS

Green light

Skincare company Farmacy uses a green-flowering form of *Echinacea purpurea*, called 'Green Envy', as an ingredient in its line of natural cosmetics. Grown organically on a farm in New York, the plant contains high levels of the phytochemical cichoric acid, which is a potent anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory. Combined with other restorative botanicals that naturally support the skin, Farmacy products offer soothing protection from harsh winter weather. **farmacybeauty.com**

Garden shows and festivals 2017

MARCH

25-26 *Gardens Illustrated* Festival, UK. See page 8. gardensfestival.com

APRIL

1-2 Great Dixter Spring Plant Fair, UK. International specialist nurseries. greatdixter.co.uk

20-23 Harrogate Spring Flower Show, UK. Celebrating spring planting. flowershow.org.uk

21-23 Les Fêtes des Plantes de Printemps, Château de Saint-Jean de Beauregard, France. Europe's finest nurseries. domsaintjeanbeauregard.com

28-29 Powderham Castle Garden Festival, UK. Plant fair and talks. tobygardenfest.co.uk

MAY

11-14 RHS Malvern Spring Festival, UK. Show gardens and plants. rhs.org.uk

12-14 Beervelde Garden Days, Belgium. Plants and artisans. parkvanbeervelde.be

19-21 Les Journées des Plantes, France. France's premier event in its third year at Chantilly. domaine-de-courson.fr

23-27 RHS Chelsea Flower Show, UK. The UK's leading garden show. rhs.org.uk

JUNE

1-5 Bloom, Ireland. The largest garden festival in Ireland. bloominthepark.com

2-4 Gardening Scotland, UK. Garden inspiration. gardeningscotland.com

7-11 RHS Chatsworth Flower Show, UK. New flower show from the RHS. rhs.org.uk

16-18 Bingerden International Specialist Nursery Days, the Netherlands. International nurseries. bingerden.com

JULY

4-9 RHS Hampton Court Flower Show, UK. Show gardens and plants. rhs.org.uk

19-23 RHS Tatton Park Flower Show, UK. Show gardens and plants. rhs.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

5-10 RHS Wisley, UK. Nurseries. rhs.org.uk

23-24 Malvern Autumn Show, UK. Autumn planting. rhs.org.uk

7-24 Bergamo, Italy. A debate on the future of landscape design. arketipos.org

Great Dixter Autumn Plant Fair.

29 September – 1 October Orticolario Italy. Garden festival on the shores of Lake Como. orticolario.it

OCTOBER

7-8 Great Dixter Autumn Plant Fair, UK. International nurseries and seasonal plants. greatdixter.co.uk

- This is just a selection of events for 2017. See local press for other regional events and go to rhs.org.uk for a full list of all RHS shows. Check all details before travelling.

FESTIVAL IMAGE/ JASON INGRAM; CELEBRATION OF SNOWDROPS/ MARCUS HARPUR; DIXTER PLANT FAIR/ EMLI BENDIXEN

WINTER LECTURE SERIES

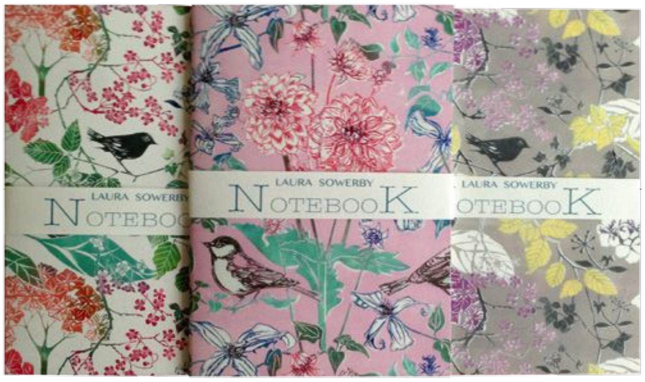
Fantastic five

Before speaking at the *Gardens Illustrated* Festival in March, garden designer Mary Keen, will be giving the first of five winter lectures at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. Her talk, ‘Paradise and Plenty’ on 26 January, will discuss the private garden of Lord Rothschild on the Waddesdon Estate and her book, which celebrates the tradition of excellence at Eythrope House in Buckinghamshire. Tickets are £60 for all five lectures or £15 each. Saïd Business School, Oxford. Tel 01865 286690, **botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk**

SMART THERMOMETER

Keep a closer eye on winter frosts this year with the Sen.se ThermoPeanut, a smart wireless thermometer that can send alerts to your phone when temperatures fluctuate above or below a set range. ThermoPeanut can adapt to any surface, both indoor and outdoor and costs £24.95. amazon.co.uk

---



BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATIONS

A call to nature

The botanically themed notebooks from Laura Sowerby are part of a collection of hand-made designs created in Laura’s remote studio in the Lake District. A direct descendant of famous 18th-century illustrator James Sowerby, Laura definitely has illustration in her blood. She finds her inspiration in the work of celebrated wallpaper maker Marthe Armitage and the beautiful Cumbrian countryside. You can buy a set of three A6 notebooks in hot or cool shades for £10.95 from **laurasowerby.co.uk**

Diary

Sculpture at RHS Rosemoor this January.

- **Rosemoor Winter Sculpture Trail**

Walk around the garden and discover the collection of artworks at the RHS Rosemoor Winter Sculpture exhibition. Most sculptures are available to buy. Until 19 February, 10.30am-5pm. £10. RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon EX38 8PH. Tel 0845 265 8072, rhs.org.uk

- **Terrarium Tuesday**

Make a miniature garden with houseplant aficionado Grace & Thorn. All materials are provided and the evening includes music, nibbles and a glass of prosecco. 3 January, 7-9pm. £65. Grace & Thorn, 338 Hackney Road, London E2 7AX. graceandthorn.com

- **Rose Pruning Workshop**

Learn how to get the best from your roses with a step-by-step pruning session from David Austin Roses. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout January, starting from Friday 13 January. Morning sessions start at 10am, afternoon sessions start at 2pm. £29.95. Plant Centre, David Austin Roses, Albrighton, Wolverhampton WV7 3HB. Tel 01902 376334, davidaustinroses.co.uk

- **Garden Photography with Andy Small**

Spend a day with fine art flower photographer Andy Small to learn his approach to garden photography and find out how to create stunning images of your own. 14 January, 10am-4pm. £109 for non-RHS members. RHS Garden Wisley, Wisley Lane, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB. Tel 020 3176 5830, rhs.org.uk

- **Snowdrop Sale**

Lay your hands on some unusual and rare snowdrops at the annual Lee Valley Ultimate Snowdrop Sale at Myddelton House Gardens, on 28 January, 10.30am-12pm. Myddelton House Gardens, Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 9HG. Tel 030 0003 0610, visitleevalley.org.uk

- **RSPB Birdwatch**

Join the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch this year and help provide valuable information about the birds using our gardens in winter. All you have to do is count the number of our feathered friends that land in your garden during one hour on one of the three days that the survey takes place: 28, 29 and 30 January. rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

MARY KEEN/JASON INGRAM; ROSEMOOR/OLIVER KITE AND RHS

Take advantage of our complimentary Garden Design Day on 18th January 2017
for more information visit **www.inchbald.co.uk**

Choose the garden design school where students flourish

In 2015 Inchbald graduates came out top at RHS Chelsea with four medals*

A high standard of teaching is central to our garden design school's success and on which our reputation has been built over the past 40 years.

Whether it's a full time, part time or **online course** you will receive guidance from the same high quality tutors.

So whether you are aiming for a successful career in garden design or simply looking to improve your own garden you won't find a better established or more renowned school than Inchbald.

Full time, part time or change of career time design courses

*RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015. Gold medal - Serena Fremantle - Artisan Garden, Gold medal - Marcus Barnett - Main Avenue Show Garden, Silver Gilt - Tanya Shinkarenko - Fresh Garden, Silver Gilt - Kamelia Bin Zaal - Main Avenue Show Garden.

55 YEARS | CREATING CAREERS

In partnership with:

PRIFYSGOL Glyndŵr Wrecsam | Wrexham Glyndŵr UNIVERSITY

inchbald
ESTABLISHED 1960

020 7630 9011 I sharon.gardens@inchbald.co.uk I www.inchbald.co.uk

THE FLOWER APPRECIATION SOCIETY
DixonBaxi We make creative work.
YCN Student Annual 14/15
You Can Now Since 2001
Maker SPACES
Emily Quinton

BLOOM
&WILD

Bloomandwild.com

Fresh flowers individually wrapped in-bud and delivered straight through the letterbox across the UK.

20% off your first order. Single use per household. Full T&Cs at www.bloomandwild.com

20% off
your first bouquet with code **GARDENS** at checkout

Get kitted out

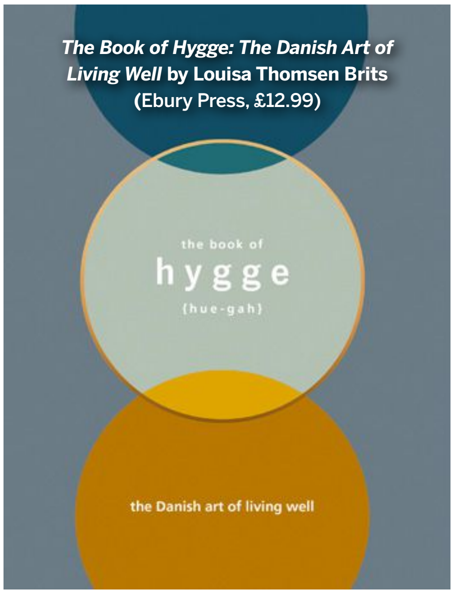
for embracing *hygge*, the Danish concept of cosy living

COMPILED BY ALYS HURN

Longford Leather Boot, £349, 01608 677622, dubarryboots.com

Daines & Hathaway Hip Flasks, £40, 07762 330519, thefoodiebugleshop.com

Nordic Mittens, £35, 0333 400 5200, toa.st/uk



***The Book of Hygge: The Danish Art of Living Well* by Louisa Thomsen Brits** (Ebury Press, £12.99)

the book of
hygge
(hue-gah)
the Danish art of living well

Ritual Ceramic Cup, £28, 01424 814968, thefuturekept.com

Fir Cone Firelighters, £8, 01844 217060, henandhammock.co.uk

Aigle Cablecap Women's Cable Knit Beanie, £29, 0800 083 6418, webury.com

Greenhouse and base by Design House Stockholm, £610, 020 3726 1120, reallywellmade.co.uk

Ambre Botanicals Rosemary, Thyme & Mint Invigorating Herbal Bath Oil, £18, 020 7229 4848, wolfandbadger.com

ROSEMARY, THYME & MINT
INVIGORATING HERBAL
BATH OIL

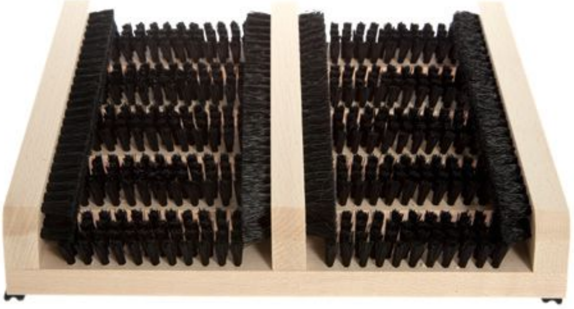
Square Rusty Brazier, £100, 0330 333 2123, coxandcox.co.uk

• **Turn over** for more products

Get kitted out

for embracing *hygge*

Hanging Brass Sky Lantern, from £24, 01276 451077, rowenandwren.co.uk



Boot Scraper, 310 kr, +46 8 39 90 93, irishantverk.se

Signature Cast Iron Round Casserole in satin black, £125, 0800 373792, lecreuset.co.uk

Toasting Fork With Rounded End, £34, 01328 820699, carriercompany.co.uk

I Will Survive White Enamel Pot Planter, £8.50, 01444 253391, rockettstgeorge.co.uk

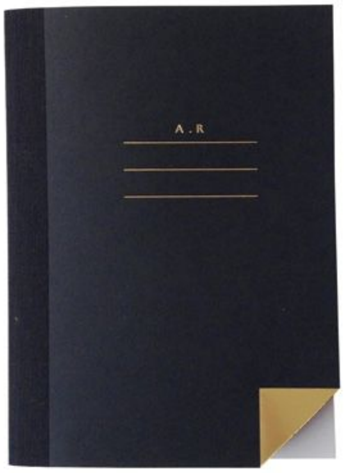
Hoogla Floor Cushion, from £54, 01531 632083, tinsmiths.co.uk

Hot Water Bottle, £8, 020 7729 6253, labourandwait.co.uk

Collar Coffee Grinder by Stelton, £64.95, 020 7823 8874, skandium.com

Leaf Press, £17, 0800 096 0938, manufactum.co.uk

Flint-striker Army, £17, 01308 426499, wildstoves.co.uk



Personalised Notebook, £19, 020 7833 8562, quilllondon.com

Mini Maglite Flashlight, £22, 020 7729 6253, labourandwait.co.uk

Gauntlet Gloves in black, £16.50, 01993 845559, gardentrading.co.uk

titan

SEE THE WORLD
DIFFERENTLY

Fulfil your travel dream in 2017

Request your copy of Titan's brand new flagship Worldwide brochure today, featuring our full programme of award-winning worldwide escorted tours for 2017, including the great apes of Uganda.

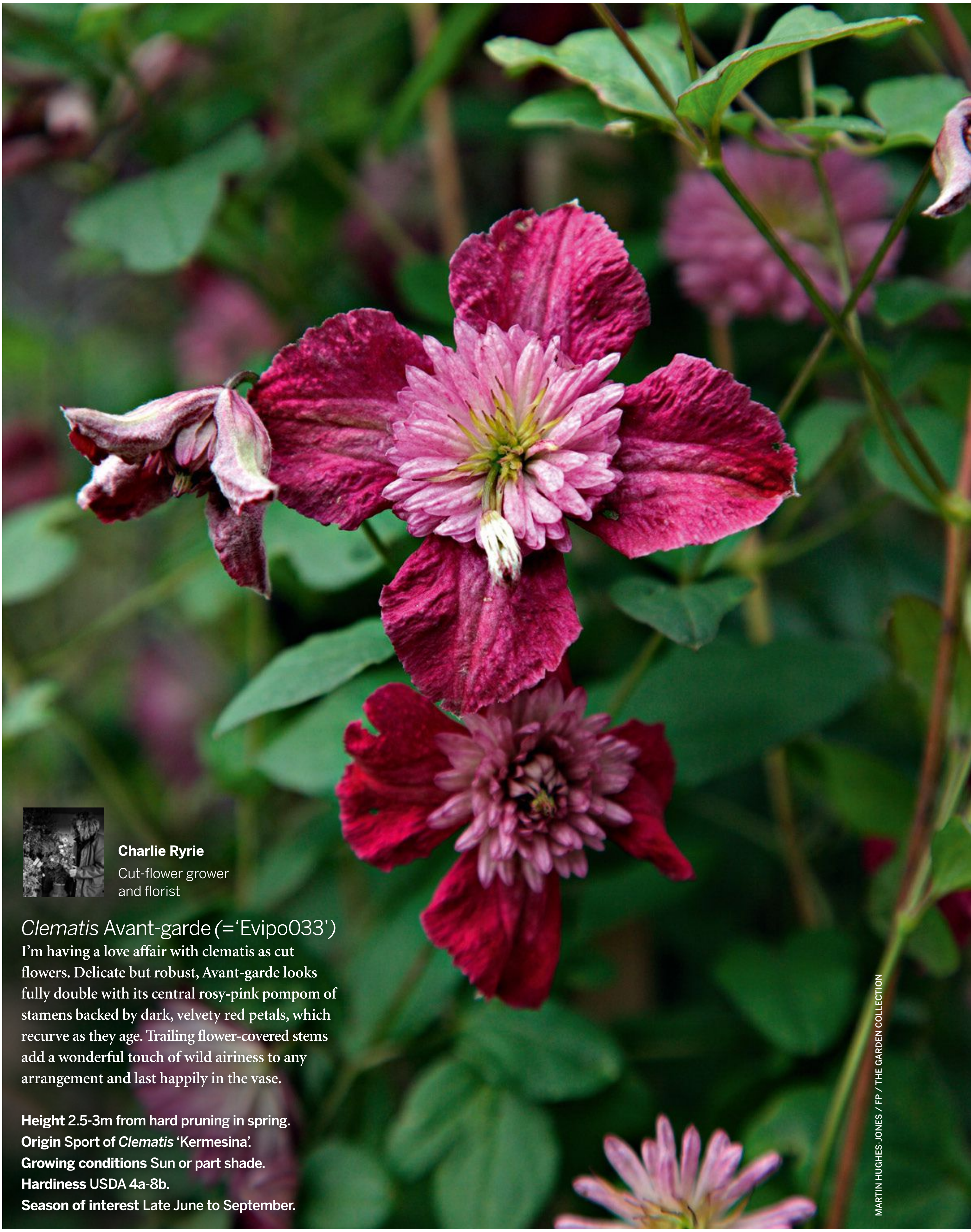
Enjoy included home transfers on all Titan holidays[†]. And, for a limited time, secure your holiday place with a deposit of just £49 per person[‡].

Call **0800 988 5816** quoting **GI5 0HW**
or visit **titantravel.co.uk**

ABTA
ABTA No.Y174X

0308 ATOL PROTECTED

[†] Except 'Essential Collection' holidays. [‡] Book between 28 December 2016 and 31 January 2017.
Calls free from BT landlines, mobiles may vary.



Charlie Ryrie
Cut-flower grower
and florist

Clematis Avant-garde (='Evipo033')

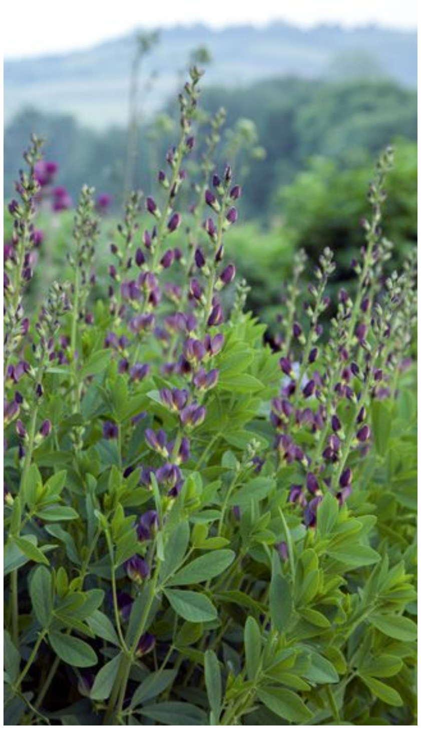
I'm having a love affair with clematis as cut flowers. Delicate but robust, Avant-garde looks fully double with its central rosy-pink pompom of stamens backed by dark, velvety red petals, which recurve as they age. Trailing flower-covered stems add a wonderful touch of wild airiness to any arrangement and last happily in the vase.

Height 2.5-3m from hard pruning in spring.
Origin Sport of *Clematis* 'Kermesina'.
Growing conditions Sun or part shade.
Hardiness USDA 4a-8b.
Season of interest Late June to September.

MARTIN HUGHES-JONES / FP / THE GARDEN COLLECTION

Top plants for 2017

We asked ten experts what plants they are most excited about growing in their gardens in the year ahead



DAN PEARSON

Dan Pearson

Garden designer

Baptisia x variicolor 'Twilite'

Baptisia are long-lived, reliable perennials and I have several new cultivars on trial, which show great promise as long-term favourites. 'Chocolate Chip', a smoky purple-brown cultivar and 'Twilite', which has a violet-burgundy flower with a yellow keel, are two that I have already been pleased with. As legumes they fix their own nitrogen.

Height 75cm.
Origin USA breeding programme.
Growing conditions Sun and free drainage.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.
Season of interest May to June.

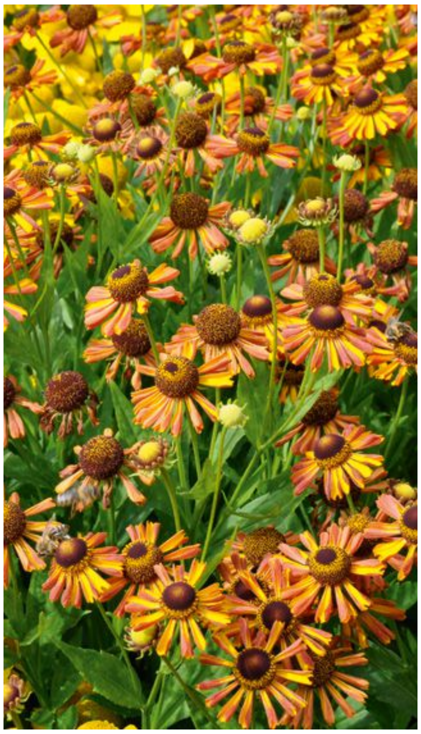
Cassian Schmidt

Garden director,
Hermannshof, Germany

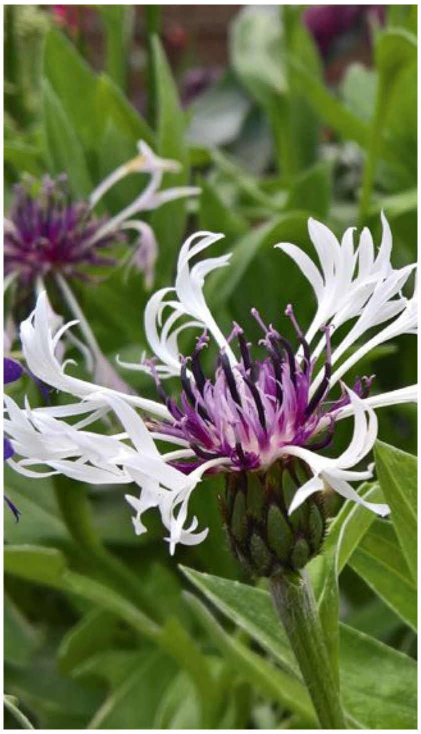
Helenium 'Loysder Wieck'

Distinctive with quilted narrow petals set far apart like little sail arms of a windmill – *wieck* in Dutch. The medium-sized, multicoloured blooms in shades of yellow, caramel, red and brown are perfect for naturalistic prairie-style plantings. I like to combine it with *Panicum virgatum* 'Prairie Fire' and the soft, lemon-yellow *Solidago* 'Loysder Crown'. Excellent for bees.

Height 1m.
Origin Hybrid, found in Dutch garden in 2005.
Growing conditions Full sun, well-drained soil.
Hardiness RHS H5, USDA 4a-8a.
Season of interest July to early September.



CASSIAN SCHMIDT



ANNIE GODFREY

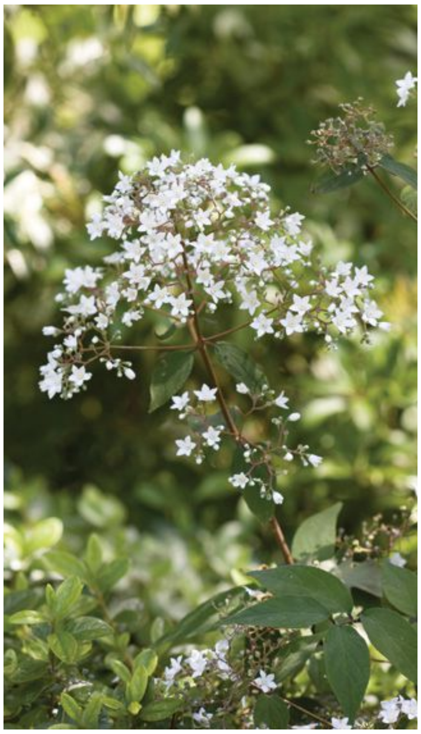
Annie Godfrey

Nursery owner,
Daisy Roots

Centaurea montana 'Purple Heart'

This new form of an old favourite does a great job of filling the gap when spring bulbs are over and the rest of the border hasn't quite got going. Buds resembling small pineapples covered in scales open to white, spidery flowers with a contrasting violet-purple centre. A bee magnet too.

Height 45cm.
Origin Mountains of southern Europe.
Growing conditions Well-drained soil in sun or light shade.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b.
Season of interest May/June, later if cut back.



FHF GREENMEDIA / GAP PHOTOS

Todd Longstaffe-Gowan

Landscape architect and historic gardens advisor

Deutzia setchuenensis var. *corymbiflora* 'Kiftsgate'

My recent infatuation with *Deutzia* began on a hot August day when I stumbled across a galaxy of delicate, white florets twinkling above a tangle of dark, sandpaper-rough foliage. Most striking in bud, this deciduous shrub makes a bewitchingly luminous addition to the late-summer garden.

Height 2m.
Origin China.
Growing conditions Moist, well-drained soil; full sun or partial shade.
Hardiness RHS H5, USDA 6a-8a.
Season of interest July to August.

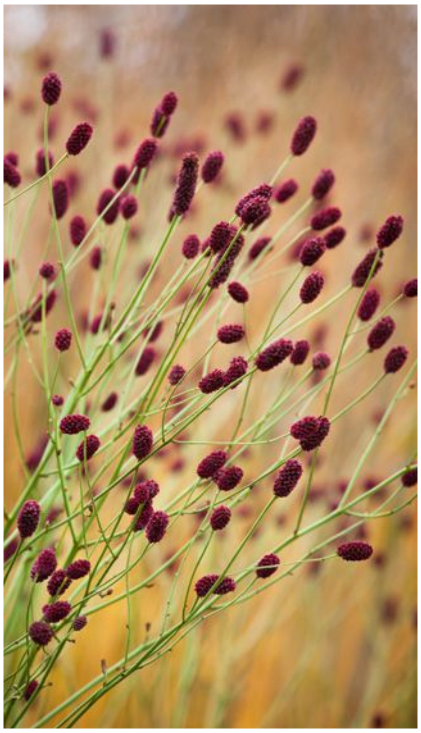
Ed Bowen

Nursery owner, Opus Plants

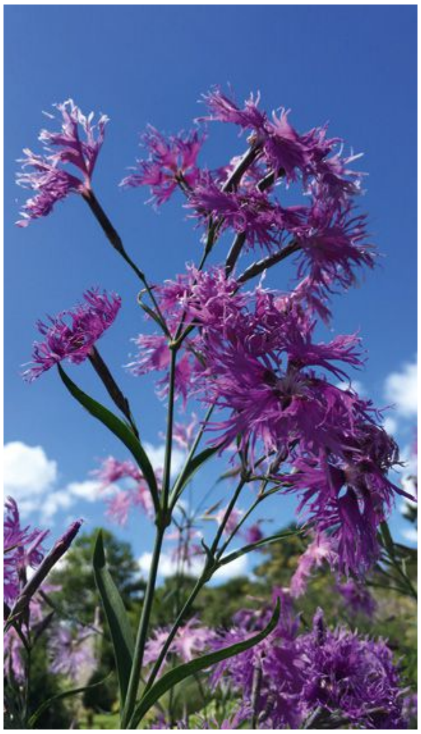
Sanguisorba 'Cangshan Cranberry'

In contrast to usual trussed garden stasis, *Sanguisorba* is a study in dynamism, like kinetic Calder sculptures, rivalling and complementing ornamental grasses. 'Cangshan Cranberry' becomes a miasma of crimson orbs atop transparent stems, simultaneously a seasonal crescendo and a leavening agent to denser composites.

Height 2m.
Origin China, collected by Dan Hinkley.
Growing conditions Sun.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.
Season of interest Late summer to autumn.



JONATHAN BUCKLEY / GAP PHOTOS



HUGO BURNAND

Tania Compton

Garden designer

Dianthus 'Rainbow Loveliness'

These flowered incessantly in my garden for five months from June. Their fringed flowers in mauve, pink and white need constant deadheading with the teensiest sharp scissors and eagle eyes, as there is only the subtlest difference between emerging and spent flowers, leading to an almost daily encounter with their scented blooms.

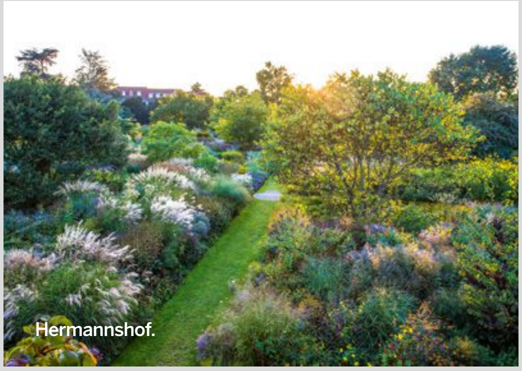
Height 25cm.
Origin Related to *Dianthus superbus* found throughout Europe and northern Asia.
Growing conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness USDA 3a-8b.
Season of interest June onwards.

Useful information

Details on how to find the plants chosen by our plantspeople this year – and more about their work.

For suppliers of each of these plants, it is best to check the ***RHS Plant Finder* or the website apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/index.asp**. Alternatively, many of the plantspeople featured also have nurseries.

- **Charlie Ryrie** runs The Real Cut Flower Garden based in Dorset, cutflowergarden.co.uk She is speaking at the ***Gardens Illustrated* Festival 2017** (details on page 8). gardensfestival.com
- **Dan Pearson** is trialling plants at his new garden in Wiltshire. The baptisia he is growing include plants from Coen Jansen's nursery in the Netherlands. coenjansenvasteplanten.nl
- **Cassian Schmidt** is garden director at Hermannshof garden in Germany – a trial garden at the forefront of modern planting ideas



Hermannshof.

CLAIRE TAKACS

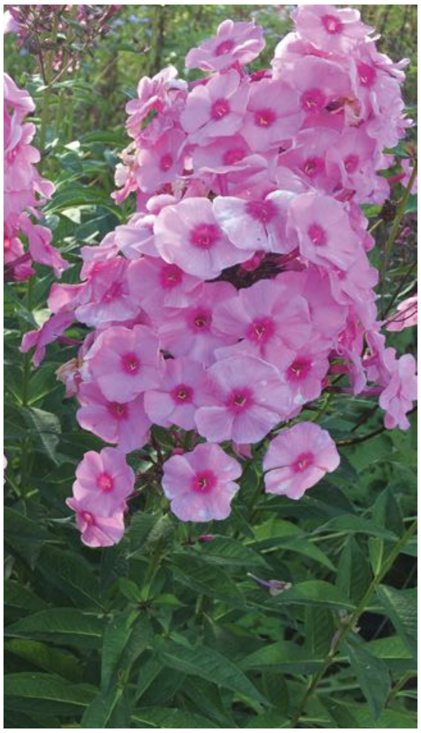
Noël Kingsbury

Plantsman and writer

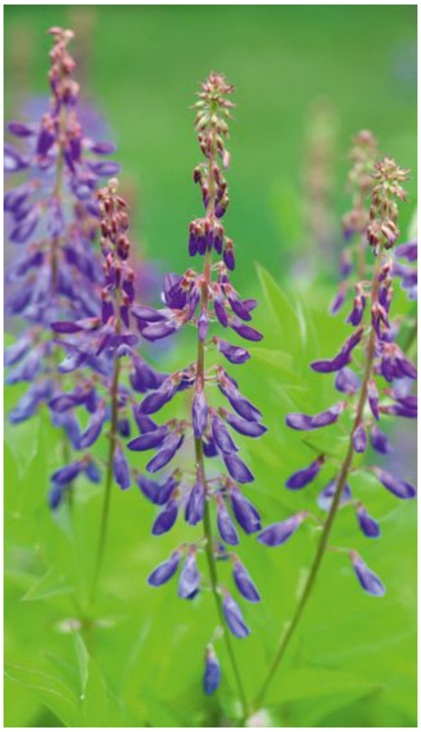
Phlox paniculata 'Herbstwalzer'

Phlox are perfect for midsummer interest, but they vary enormously in their vigour and ability to thrive from year to year. This one is the best I have ever grown: healthy dark foliage sets off nearly three months of flowers on tall stems, which are, as the late Henk Gerritsen would have said, 'strong enough to lean your bicycle against'.

Height 1.2m.
Origin Bred in Germany by Peter zur Linden.
Growing conditions Moist but well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade.
Hardiness RHS H7.
Season of interest August to October.



NOEL KINGSBURY



RICHARD BLOOM / GAP PHOTOS

Carol Klein

Plantswoman and TV garden presenter

Galega orientalis

A maverick of a plant, it pops up unexpectedly thanks to its rhizomatous, nitrogen-fixing roots (it is grown as a perennial fodder crop in the Caucasus). Its glories for us gardeners are all above ground. Fresh green leaves decorate tall strong stems laden with narrow spikes of brilliant, iridescent blue pea flowers, startling in full sun, glowing at dusk.

Height 1-2m with a random spread.
Origin Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia.
Growing conditions Easy going.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 3a-9b.
Season of interest Summer flowers.

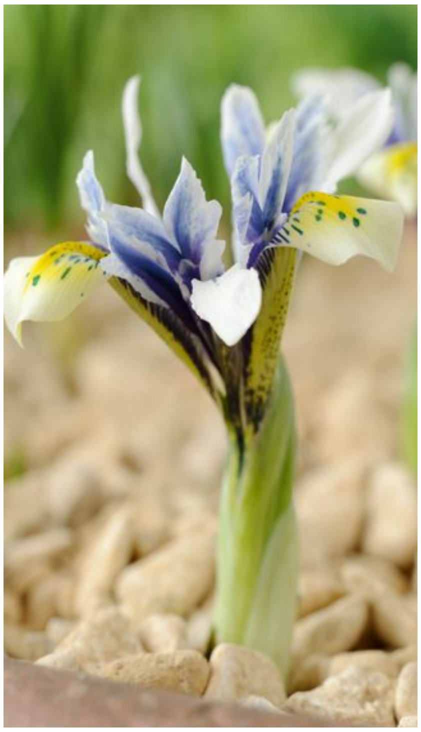
Nick Bailey

Writer, TV presenter and Chelsea Physic Garden head gardener

Iris 'Eye Catcher' (Reticulata)

Thanks to decades of extensive wild collecting and breeding work this new reticulate iris was, for me, the plant of the 2016 RHS London Early Spring Plant Fair. It will produce a flurry of striking purple-blue, white and yellow blooms. Its elegant colours mean it glows with an attention-grabbing radiance that outshines others.

Height 10cm.
Origin Bred by Canadian Alan McMurtrie.
Growing conditions Moist but well-drained soil in reasonable light.
Hardiness RHS H7.
Season of interest Early spring.



CHRIS BURROWS / GAP PHOTOS

with a particular focus on perennials. sichtungsgarden-hermannshof.de

- **Annie Godfrey** runs Daisy Roots nursery, specialising in perennials and grasses. daisyroots.com
- **Todd Longstaffe-Gowan** is working on the development of the almshouse courtyard at London's Charterhouse, which opens to the public in January 2017. tlg-landscape.co.uk

Chelsea Physic Garden.

CHARLIE HOPKINSON

- **Ed Bowen** runs a small nursery in New England specialising in unusual, garden-worthy perennials. opusplants.com
- **Tania Compton** bought her dianthus as plug plants in May from Allwoods. allwoods.net
- **Noël Kingsbury** is also speaking at the *Gardens Illustrated* Festival and blogs about his plant encounters at noels-garden.blogspot.co.uk
- **Carol Klein** regularly appears on *Gardeners' World*. Look out for the new BBC2 series in spring.
- Head gardener **Nick Bailey** won a silver-gilt for his first Chelsea Flower Show garden in 2016. He is also author of *365 Days of Colour*, a guide to year-round garden colour and leads discovery tours of the Chelsea Physic Garden, chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

brightwater
holidays

Quality Garden and Special Interest Tours, At Home and Abroad

Spring in the Dutch Bulbfields

From canal-side cafes to historic windmills, artistic masterpieces to ground-breaking architecture, Holland has a lot going for it — and we haven't even mentioned the tulips yet. We can hardly think of a better way to spend the spring than touring this enchanting land and watching it emerge into life.

Departures: 7 & 28 April, 2017
3 nights from **£595 pp**
Single Room Supp. **£165**

Alpine Flowers of Wengen

Breathtaking scenery, rich green alpine meadows and spruce forests make Wengen a superb destination for for not just native flora, but bird and butterfly-spotting opportunities, too. Join us in June to explore the high pastures of the Bernese Oberland, where the hills are alive with a carpet of flowers.

Departures: 27 June, 2017
7 nights from **£1,895 pp**
Single Room Supp. **£410**

Wildflowers of the Hebrides

The Isle of Barra is the most southerly of the inhabited Outer Hebrides and long famed for its beauty, boasting beaches and hills, machair and moorland, all in a small island. Whether you want to tick off a few more species in your field guide, or just enjoy the scenery, there's no finer place to be.

Departures: 5 May, 2017
3 nights from **£585 pp**
Single Room Supp. **£120**

Brightwater Holidays

Including Arts, Archaeology and Scenic Scottish Holidays

Call Now 01334 657155

These tours have been created with garden specialists Brightwater Holidays, and staff and members. Brightwater Holidays is the UK's leading Gardens and Special Interest Tour Operator. They offer inclusive tours to gardens in the British Isles and around the world. Their gardens are carefully chosen to include a balance of large, famous properties and smaller, private gardens, many of which are not normally open to the public.

Email: info@brightwaterholidays.com | www.brightwaterholidays.com
Brightwater Holidays Ltd, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife KY15 4HS

3552 ATOL PROTECTED
2552 AITO Association of Independent Tour Operators
5249 ABTOT

Seed catalogues for 2017

As the year turns, allotmenteer Jojo's pulse quickens at the rattle of seeds in a packet

WORDS JOJO TULLOH ILLUSTRATIONS SARAH YOUNG

The urge to change your life for the better is strongest in January. For once, gardeners have it easy. Seeds offer a cheap path to reinvention. For a few pounds you can have a whole new gardening self, reflected in a vegetable plot that is wildly different from last years. What kind of gardener will you be in 2017? Is it time to lose your heart to herbs and edible flowers and sow a garden thick with blooms and heavy with the scent of volatile oils? Or perhaps plant an Italian garden of ribbed tomatoes, bitter salad and speckled beans? Will the exotic catch your imagination and prompt you to seek out esoteric flavours from across the globe? Or you could create a vibrant container garden with pot after pot of cherry tomatoes and chilli peppers of every colour? The possibilities are deliciously endless. I've put together a list of a few of my trusted suppliers to tempt your fancy.

Chiltern Seeds
Supplier of rare and unusual flower, herb and vegetable seeds since 1975, the long slim catalogues (one for flowers and one for veg) are perfect for slipping into your bag before a bus journey. Written with more wit than most catalogues there is always something new to tempt you as well as old favourites (many marked up as best sellers so you can see what's working for other growers). Will this be the year to try *tortarello* or Armenian melon (*Cucumis melo* var. *flexuosus*), an elongated, cucumber-like fruit from southern Italy? Pet-owning gardeners will love the special mixtures designed to keep tortoises, guinea pigs and rabbits happy.
Tel 01491 824675, chilternseeds.co.uk

Dobies
Supplying seeds since 1880, Dobies has a fully illustrated catalogue with simple, clear descriptions making this a helpful place for beginners to start looking. If you want colour in the potager, 'Purple de Provence' is a stunning, green and purple striped globe artichoke, while 'Tinty', a dark-red 'Hispi'-style, hearted cabbage, is another eye catcher. Container gardeners might like the chilli pepper 'Fish', with striped fruits and unusual variegated leaves and the tiny, fruited 'Red Currant' tomato, a heavy cropper tolerant of lower sunshine levels.
Tel 0844 9670303, dobies.co.uk

Edulis
While not strictly speaking a seed merchant, this rare plants nursery has a vegetable list packed with unusual edibles perfect for the kind of gardener who likes to grow the exotic (and cook Japanese and Chinese food). I have my eye on two of its pepper plants *Zanthoxylum simulans*, the Sichuan pepper, and *Zanthoxylum piperitum*, the Japanese pepper or *sansho*, which grows well in containers. Edulis also has a long list of far-flung tubers and alliums of all kinds, such as the Egyptian tree onion and the bee-attracting *Allium cyathophorum* var. *farreri*, also known as the Gansu leek.
Tel 01635 578113, edulis.co.uk

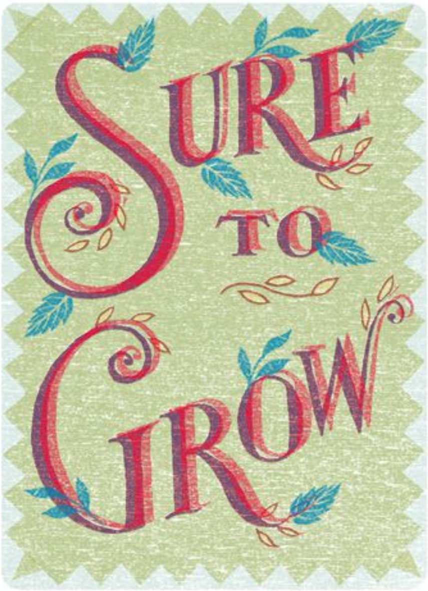
Franchi Seeds of Italy
It's hard not to get carried away with this sumptuous list (where else would you find ten different cultivars of borlotti bean?). I especially adore the section on chicory and radicchio, which grow well in wet and ▷

▷ windy conditions. With their beautiful spears, rosettes and frilled heads of red, white and green you almost wonder who needs flowers when you can have vegetables like this? Packets are large and generously filled with seeds. If you really can't make up your mind, the Restaurateurs Pack of 12 different types of chicory and radicchio, should keep you in bitter leaves all summer long.
Tel 020 8427 5020, seedsofitaly.com

Garden Organic
Garden Organic is the trading name of the Henry Doubleday Research Association, which was set up in 1954 and named after the Quaker smallholder who first brought the more nutrient rich Russian comfrey (*Symphytum* x *uplandicum*) to Britain. Once you join you can pay an extra £18 a year to become a member of the Heritage Seed Library, which currently holds about 800 rare, heirloom or currently commercially unavailable vegetable seeds. Members get to choose six free packets of seeds from the catalogue, which is sent out in December each year.
Tel 024 7630 3517, gardenorganic.org.uk

The Herbary
Although it offers a full range of organically produced vegetable seed, this supplier specialises in herbs and especially beans from around the world, that have 'been successful in sustaining families during difficult times', and are specifically aimed at the home grower. Become a bean club member and you can order from an eclectic mix of heritage cultivars, such as 'District Nurse', 'Major Cook' or 'Brita's Footlong'. For the novice herb grower it offers a selection of 12 essential herbs and plenty of advice on how to achieve success. Roots of horseradish, thyme, comfrey and tarragon are also available.
beansandherbs.co.uk

Higgledy Garden
Higgledy Garden is a Cornish cut flower producer that also sells seeds. The beautiful hand-printed, art nouveau-inspired, brown paper packets make a lovely gift. If you want to sow a strip of cutting flowers or experiment with the benefits of companion planting, you'll find plenty of advice here. The annual chrysanthemum *Ismelia* 'Rainbow' is one jubilant red-white-and-orange-striped offering, or for those looking to maximise growing space the climbing nasturtium *Tropaeolum* 'Scarlet Munchkin' would look wonderful in a courtyard garden (and you can add the flowers to salads too). The Edible Flower Collection is a good buy at ten packets for £15.60 plus free p&p.
higgledygarden.com



Kings Seeds
Kings supplies vegetables and flowers seeds and also incorporates Suffolk Herbs. With a huge selection of sweet peas this is a cottage gardener's treasure trove. Herbalists can go mad with an encyclopaedic selection from agrimony to yarrow and plenty in between. Look out for *Chenopodium bonus-henricus* recently added to the Slow Food Foundation's Ark of Taste as an indigenous flavour worth preserving. For the thick-fingered gardener its salad seed tapes make life easy.
Tel 01376 570000, kingsseeds.com

The Organic Gardening Catalogue
This is the official catalogue of Garden Organic (see left) so buying its seed helps to support Garden Organic's work of spreading the good news about organic gardening. It's open to all, but Garden Organic members get a 10 per cent discount. The catalogue is a joint venture with Surrey-based Chase Organics, so alongside seeds it also offers shredders, comfrey cuttings, green manures – all the things you need to make healthy soil and fantastic fruit and vegetables.
Tel 01932 878570, organiccatalogue.com

Real Seed Company
This family-run business describes its eclectic list modestly and accurately as, 'vegetable seeds that germinate quickly and grow well'. Its selection of untreated seeds is filled with vegetables you won't find anyway else, such as the vivid Chinese green choi sum (sold here as Japanese *tsoi sim*). All seeds are chosen because they really work for the home grower. I swear by its super-early tomatoes and courgettes. All its seed are non-hybrid and orders include tips on how to save your own seed for the future.
Tel 01239 821107, realseeds.co.uk

Tamar Organics
This wholly organic supplier offers a wide range of seeds, sold as individual packets (with a very strong squash and pumpkin selection) and as collections. Its collection packs (for easy flowers and salad) offer good value and a mouth-watering new addition is a collection of its own favourites, including beetroot 'Jannis', courgette 'Cocozelle', lettuce 'Maravilla de Verano', rucola rocket and squash 'Green Hokkaido'.
Tel 01579 371098, tamarorganics.co.uk

Tuckers Seeds
This independent Devon company began life as agricultural seed merchant in 1831. It was the first one I used as vegetable grower after I came across a stack of its catalogues piled up beside a water tank on the allotments. It was a lucky accident. It has a wide range of GM-free seeds from open-pollinated types to the latest F1 innovations and helpfully packs its seeds in zip-lock pouches, which makes sense for successional planting. I like its fast-growing oriental salad Hot Mix, made up of 'Red Giant' and 'Golden Streaks' mustard, rocket, mizuna and 'Canton White' pak choi, which at 5,000 seeds for £2.50 is exceptionally good value.
Tel 01364 652233, edwintucker.co.uk

W G GRACE & SON LTD

DESIGNERS & JOINERS OF
TRADITIONAL GREENHOUSES

Both standard range and bespoke Greenhouses

to find out more and request a brochure:

www.wggrace.co.uk or telephone **01647 252995**

Namibia
Kalahari & Namib Deserts The Skeleton Coast

South Africa
Exceptional Gardens of the Cape and wildlife reserves
Courtesy Dylan Lewis Sculpture Garden South Africa

SUSAN WORNER TOURS

www.susanwornertours.com • 01423 326 300

Garden, Wild Flower and Natural History Tours to France, Italy, Switzerland, Portugal, Morocco, South Africa and Namibia

ATOL 6063 PROTECTED

We also travel to Botswana, the Okavango Delta and northern Namibia

The
ENGLISH GARDENING SCHOOL
— *CHELSEA* —

GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS
Wed & Thu 19/20 & 26/27 April 2017 – **BOOKING NOW**
A new 4 day course explaining the basics of flower and vegetable seed sowing, growing and planting. What to do, when and how, including a visit to Rosemary's Hampshire garden.

ONE YEAR GOOD GARDENING DIPLOMA COURSE – BOOKING NOW
Sep 2017 – June 2018
Covers the best in planting design while training in the more serious aspects of horticultural techniques. Working sessions at Sissinghurst with head gardener Troy Smith and lectures by many leading gardening personalities. Regular visits to outstanding private gardens.
(1 day a week (Tues), 10.30am–3.15pm, over three 10 week terms)

10 WEEK INTENSIVE GARDEN DESIGN DIPLOMA COURSE
January – March 2017
Covers all you need to know in this diverse subject, including TWO real design projects and CAD tuition. Drawing skills, estimating, plant knowledge, water features, garden lighting and visits to the work of leading designers with Rosemary Alexander and other tutors.
(3 days a week in school, 10.30am-3.15pm, plus 2 days homework)

GARDEN DESIGN & CARING FOR YOUR GARDEN
Distance Learning Courses – study anytime, anywhere in the world.
A stepping stone to a new career.
These two courses are a step by step guide to either designing your own garden or learning how to plant and maintain an existing garden: drawing up plans, hard landscaping, site analysis, planting, month by month tasks etc.
Taught through a comprehensive course book, with projects submitted by post.
1-3 years to complete and individual assessment.

Chelsea Physic Garden

Not sure which Diploma course is for you? Come along to an information session to see our location and find out more. **www.englishgardeningschool.co.uk**
Email: info@englishgardeningschool.co.uk
Tel: 020 7352 4347

Long established as the leader in all design and gardening tuition and based at the unique and historic Chelsea Physic Garden

WoolOvers
EST. 1989

£10 OFF
PLUS FREE DELIVERY*
use promo code: GARDEN

Offer ends 02.02.17

~~WAS £55~~
NOW £45
Womens Pure Wool Aran Coatigan
100% pure wool
S / M / L / XL

Search ref: F25

Love Winter

This classic, pure wool, Aran-knit cardigan is a cosy, cold-weather essential. Durable & timeless, this versatile coverup will keep you wonderfully warm this winter and beyond.

Colours available: oatmeal, flannel grey, country twist, navy, french navy, midnight twist, burgundy, charcoal, black

Order now at **WOOLOVERS.COM** or by phone **0345 073 1040**

*Get £10 off and free standard UK delivery on our Womens Pure Wool Aran Coatigan – ref F25 (while stocks last). Use promo code **GARDEN** at checkout when ordering online, or quote code when ordering over the phone. Offer excludes other voucher codes and multibuys. Code **GARDEN** expires 23:59 GMT Thursday 02nd February 2017. All our prices are correct at the time of printing. Prices are subject to change and may differ from the website. All orders are subject to acceptance under WoolOvers standard terms & conditions. You can return any item within 90 days of purchase for an exchange or refund, providing it hasn't been worn or washed, still has its tags attached and is in its original packaging. On the very rare occasion a garment is found to have a manufacturing fault, it will be exchanged or your money refunded, providing it is returned within 6 months from the date of purchase. WoolOvers will not be liable for any washing errors or detergent damage.

Maria Olivia de Castro Tavares

Great Dixter is renowned for driving its gardeners on to new heights of collaborative excellence and creativity, an attribute much enjoyed by Portuguese gardener Maria

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Earliest garden memory With my sisters in our local park – pretending ox-eye daisy flowers were fried eggs!

Favourite planting style In gardens I like plantings where the gardener has edited the gardening palette to create a more striking version of the natural landscape. I don't like over manipulation of the plant environment or the unnecessary hybridisation of the plants.

Horticultural heroes Beth Chatto, who was largely self taught. She pioneered 'ecological' gardening as we now know it. This is beautifully demonstrated in her garden near Colchester in Essex. Starting from a blank canvas, she has created successful dynamic plantings in conditions of great habitat diversity.

What are the problems facing gardeners today? Too many gardeners are treated as functionaries and rarely remunerated at a decent level. There are so few positions where the gardener is treated as a creative leader, in the way that, for instance, is now normal for chefs.

What principles have guided your attitude to horticulture? Nature must be a comrade, and never enslaved.

Unsung hero of the plant world *Centaurea nigra*, which grows in the meadows at Great Dixter (where I'm currently working), and along the kitchen drive where it produces a beautiful hazy space filler. Self-seeding becomes a blessing in this case.

Three tips for gardeners Get to know the plants in your garden that self seed, so you can recognise the seedlings and not weed them out – then watch a natural dynamic process take over. Try something new from seed; January is a good time make yourself aware of new discoveries and introductions for the new season. Always prune sympathetically –but cut more than you think.

First plant love *Ranunculus* – I loved the way they look like two plants at once, obviously a buttercup but also a rose.

Dream plant destination I'd love to visit New Zealand for its unusual biodiversity and landscape, and its mostly native flora.

Favourite books *The Garden of Ignorance* by Marion Cran. Written in 1913, it's an entertaining, autobiographical narrative focusing on her garden in Kent and of her journey from garden and plant ignorance, to hands-on expertise and wild enthusiasm. □

Contact maria.castro.t@gmail.com

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Save when you subscribe
to the digital edition

PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Dream gardens
in England, USA, Spain and Australia
Planting and design trends FOR 2017
How to make stylish garden structures
15 great gardens to visit for culture lovers
NEW SERIES Richard Mabey on gardens and nature

Available from

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

amazon apps Available on kindle fire

A must-have read for passionate gardeners, *Gardens Illustrated* magazine provides a unique insight into the world's most beautiful gardens, irresistible plants and clever design.

norfolk garden

Reflected glory

In the grounds around their historic, moated house, Lynda and Charles Tucker have created a romantic garden that combines formal and informal planting with a practical approach

WORDS WIDGET FINN PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE TAKACS

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

Dream gardens in England, USA, Spain and Australia

Planting and design trends FOR 2017

How to make stylish garden structures

15 great gardens to visit for culture lovers

NEW SERIES Richard Mabey on gardens and nature

Enjoy our Premium App experience now available from

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

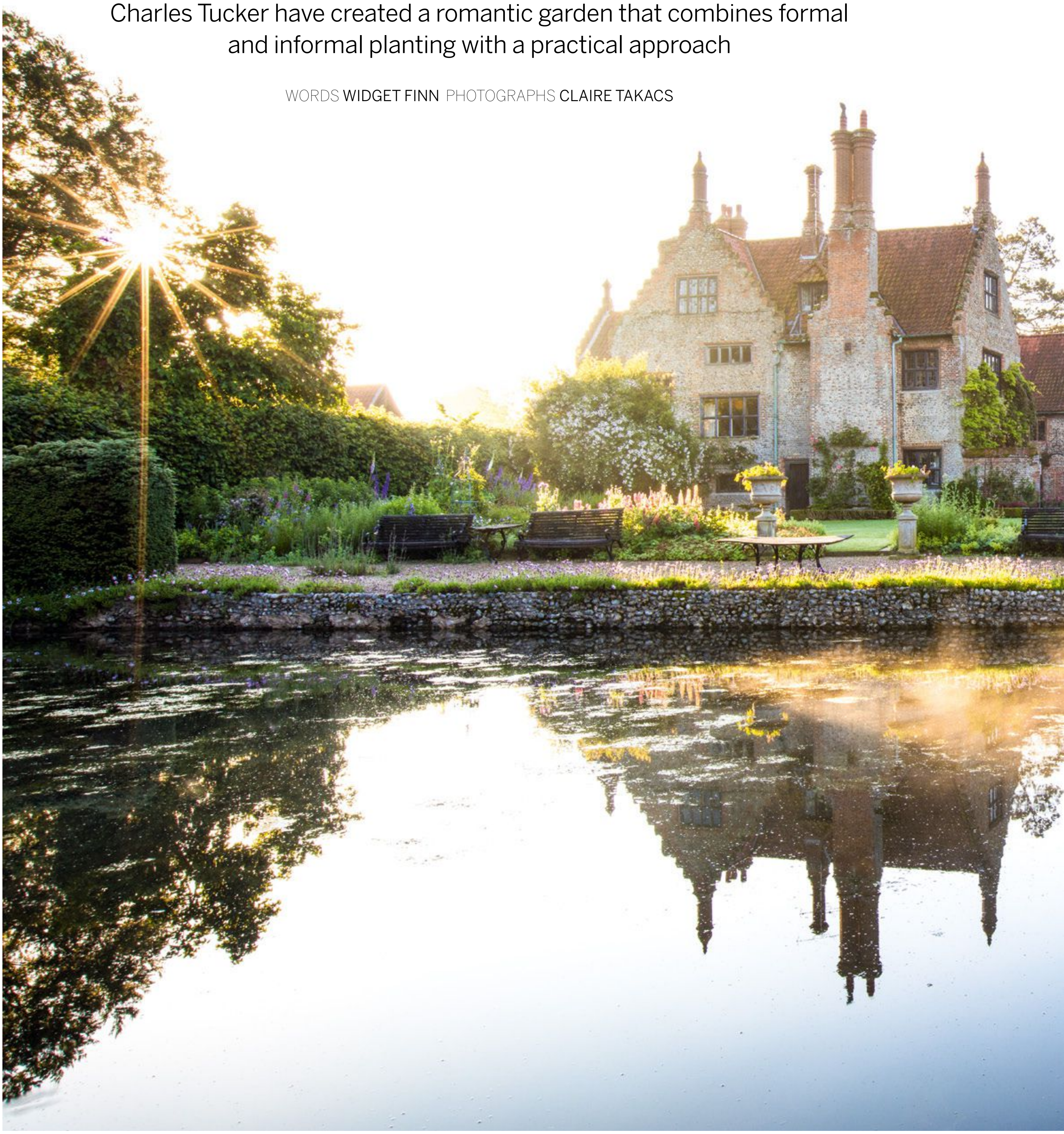
amazon apps Available on kindle fire

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Reflected glory

In the grounds around their historic, moated house, Lynda and Charles Tucker have created a romantic garden that combines formal and informal planting with a practical approach

WORDS **WIDGET FINN** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLAIRE TAKACS**

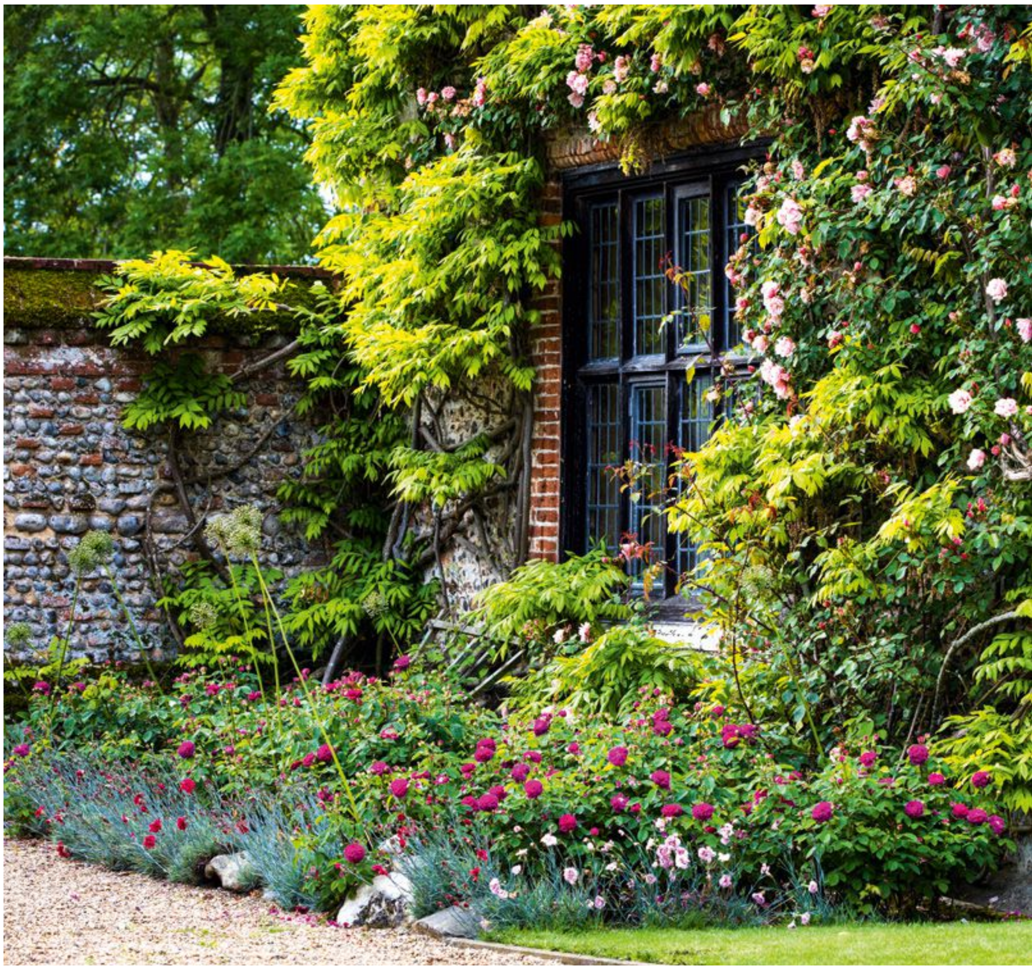


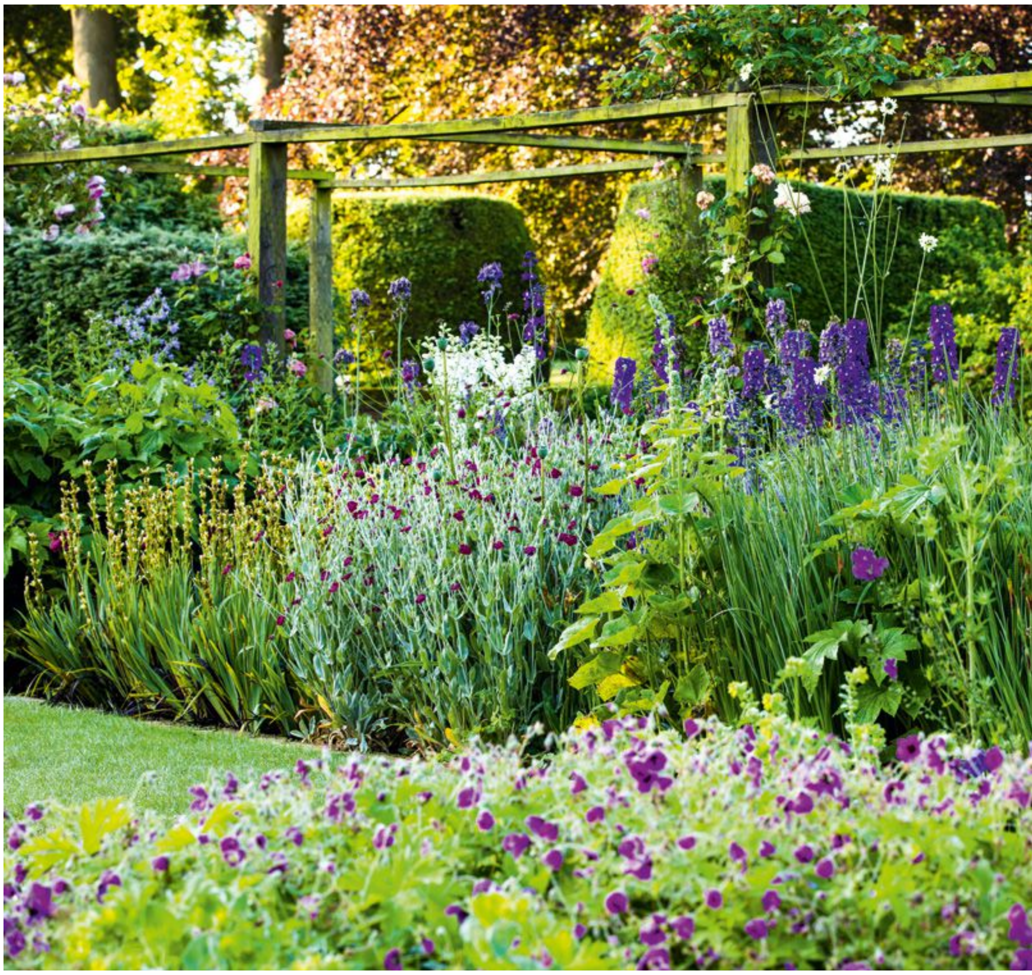
In brief

Name Hindringham Hall.
What Private garden with a balance of formal and informal areas and 12th-century water features.
Where Norfolk.
Size Four acres.
Climate Situated four miles from the north Norfolk coast the garden is frost free, and has several microclimates, depending on whether the area is sheltered or exposed, including hot, dry and boggy.
Soil Alkaline with a pH of 7.5.
Hardiness rating USDA 8.

The 16th-century Hindringham Hall, reflected in the mirror-calm surface of its medieval moat. The early morning sun helps draw attention to the romantic planting around the West Lawn.

> “The difference between a good garden and a bad one is two weeks”





Norfolk has more than its fair share of quintessentially English manor houses, hidden away down remote country lanes, untouched by the passing of time. Sixteenth century Hindringham Hall is one of these, forming a mellow backdrop to the romantic garden created over 22 years by Lynda and Charles Tucker. The garden is defined by a 12th-century moat, which encircles the house as if still protecting its inhabitants from intruders. Beyond the moat lie the walled Vegetable Garden, Stream and Bog Garden, and Charles is overseeing the restoration of the newly rediscovered and rare medieval fishponds. Water is the focus of this garden, giving it a timeless atmosphere – and a few challenges.

Turn the page to read our interview with Lynda ▷

Clockwise from top left

A glorious *Rosa* ‘Albertine’ and wisteria (which have been underplanted with *Clematis* ‘Rouge Cardinal’ for colour later in the season) frame one of the house’s original leaded windows.

In the Formal Garden pink *Rosa* ‘Roseraie de l’Hay’ stands out among the strap-like leaves of agapanthus.

A pair of Haddonstone urns, spotted at the Chelsea Flower Show, frame the entrance to the Formal Garden’s West Lawn.

The wooden pergola runs alongside the Formal Garden, where a carpet of *Geranium psilostemon* echoes the colour of *Lychnis coronaria* in the border.

▷ **What attracted you to this garden?**
It was the water and the silence. We'd been living four miles away, then the traffic suddenly got too much. I'd always wanted a garden with water, and Hindringham is at the bottom of a river valley, hidden away and completely peaceful.

Did you have a plan when you started, and how did the garden evolve?
There wasn't a plan. I brought lots of plants with me so I looked at the spaces and decided where they would work best. The Walled Garden had been grassed over and I started by converting it back to vegetables. It was south-facing so we added a Herb Parterre. Some areas were decided for me – the damp areas were perfect for a bog area and Stream Garden and the Daffodil Walk had a few bulbs – though we've now planted 38 varieties.

What is your approach to gardening?
I love contrasts, though it's important to have a balance between the formal and informal. The area around the house has lawns and herbaceous borders, while other areas, such as the Copse and the Wild Garden, feel as if you're walking along a country lane. Garden rooms are a lovely idea, but sometimes they're too far away from the house. A garden has to be something you fall into rather than have to make a special trip to get there.

What about maintenance?
I do it methodically. Each weekend I make a list of the next week's tasks, which I discuss with my gardener David on Monday morning. The difference between a good garden and a bad one is two weeks – if you do the right job at the right time it's fine, but if you wait too long then plants get leggy or flop. I have a five-year diary so I can remind myself when to do particular tasks.

What are the key plants – and which are your favourites?
The daffodils are first, then fritillarias, and hellebores. In the summer, eringiums are stunning, growing on walls near the stream. We have nine different irises, a magnificent *Magnolia grandiflora* against the house – ▷

Right Lynda and Charles added this Herb Parterre to the walled Vegetable Garden. Here, gravelled paths and clipped box hedges provide formality, while bay trees, artichokes, fennel, and standard gooseberries 'Hinnomaki Red' and 'Invicta' lend height.

"A garden has to be something you fall into rather than have to make a special trip to get there"

Clockwise from top left

An elegant Victorian brick apple store overlooks the walled Vegetable Garden. Here Lynda allows leeks to go to seed so they produce some much-admired giant 'allium' heads.

In the Stream Garden, a gravel path snakes through lush plantings of *Zantedeschia aethiopica* and colourful *Primula florindae* towards a garden seat wrapped within a topiarised *Lonicera nitida*.

A wooden suspension bridge, which dates from the 1920s, leads to the romantic Moat House, one of three self-catering holiday cottages in the grounds.

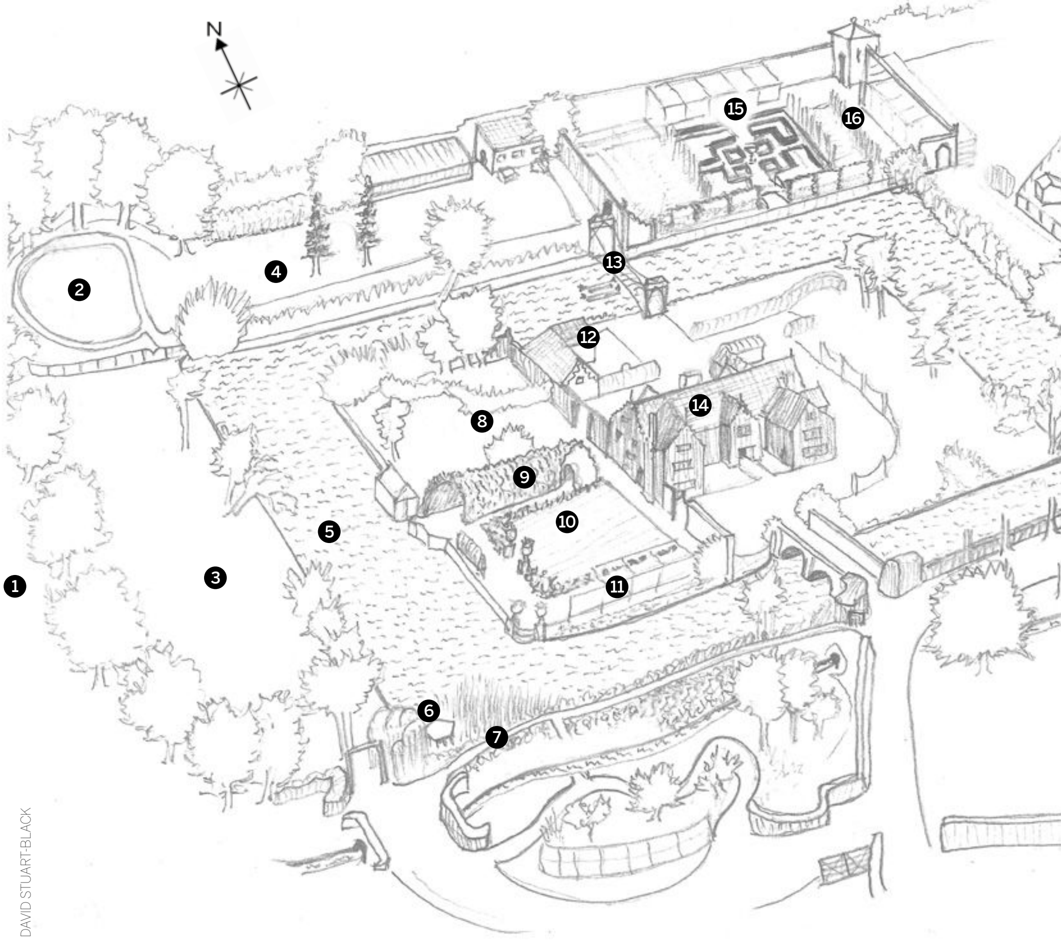
▷ and the roses and clematis are glorious. Then in high summer *Romneya* is my favourite, though it's very difficult to grow. Deadhead it regularly, and never plant it against a brick wall or the roots will destroy it.

How do you keep the garden irrigated?

We take water out of the moat for the Vegetable Garden, but on the whole we don't water – it's a huge area and we haven't the time. You don't need to water if you have the right plants and mulch well. We make masses of compost – for the best results, keep turning it over – I make sure the structure of the soil is right and mulch well, then the plants are on their own after that.

Is it difficult to garden sympathetically with a historic property?

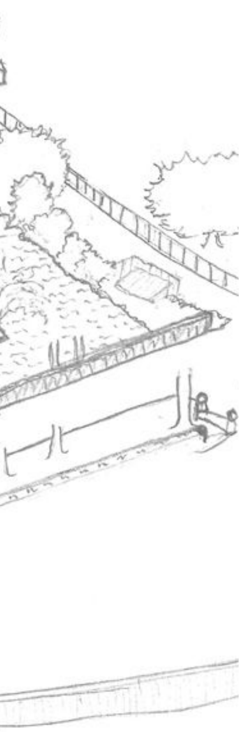
I'm planning a pergola, which will be in old brick to complement the house – the secret is to make it to look as if it's been there for a long time. We restored some period features, such as the Victorian Nut Walk and the walled garden, but often with an old garden there are lots of little modern details that you won't notice because they fit into their ▷



DAVID STUART-BLACK

GARDEN PLAN

1 Medieval fishponds
2 Copse
3 Daffodil Walk
4 Delphinium Walk
5 Moat
6 Bog Garden
7 Stream Garden
8 Wild Garden
9 Victorian Nut Walk
10 Formal Garden
11 Pergola
12 Moat House
13 Suspension bridge
14 Main house
15 Herb Parterre
16 Vegetable Garden



▷ surroundings – for example the concrete edging round the lawn is very discreet.

How has opening the garden to the public influenced the way you garden?

We open twice a week in the summer and the garden completely takes over our lives. When people are paying to come it must always look its best from spring to autumn, which takes a lot of planning. But gardeners are wonderful people and give lovely feedback, which makes it all worthwhile.

What lessons have you learned that you'd like to pass on to other gardeners?

There's no need to spend a lot of money on a garden. Take cuttings, divide plants, buy RHS seeds, go to plant sales – and swap with friends. When you buy a plant you can often divide it into two or three. We've created a new bank near the coffee shop, which I've covered with laurels and shrubs from a garden centre's two-for-one offer. Most importantly, if you've got a new garden, don't be impatient. The first year, read the books and see what's coming up.

What planting advice would you give?

Cut down labour by using ground cover, such as cranesbill geraniums or ajuga, which grow quickly, keeping the ground moist and the weeds at bay. Always double plant, think about what will come afterwards so you get months of pleasure instead of a quick burst of colour. For example if you plant a rose, add a clematis to take over.

What do you love best about the garden?

It's a place of peace and beauty – which others can enjoy too. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

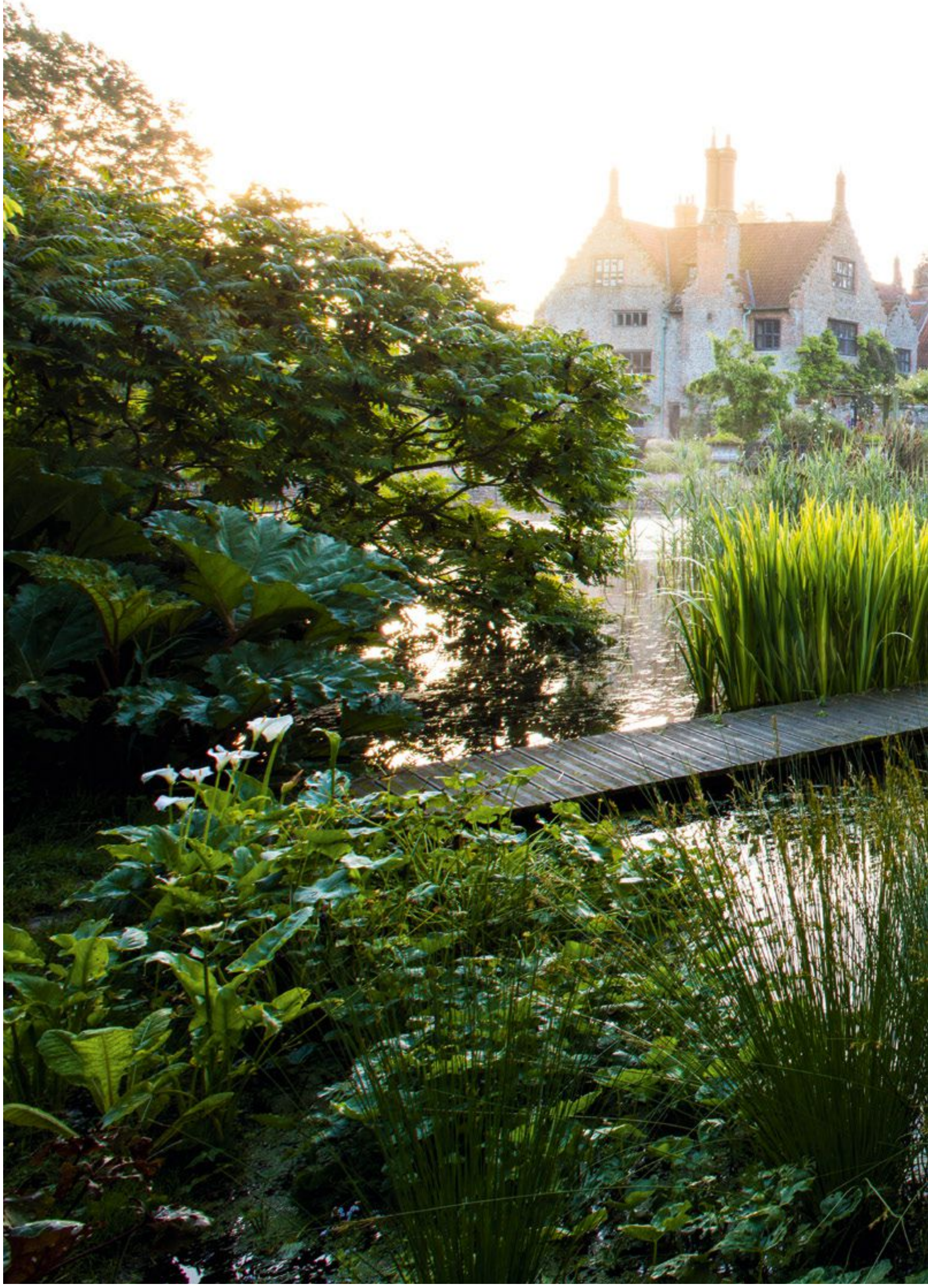
Address Hindringham Hall, Blacksmiths Lane, Hindringham, Norfolk NR21 0QA.

Tel 01328 878226.

Web hindringhamhall.org

Open Sundays (2-5pm) and Wednesdays (10am-1pm), 29 March – 1 October 2017, including one Sunday for NGS, see website for details. Admission £7.

> *"I love contrasts, though it's important to have a balance between the formal and informal"*



Right The Bog Garden was formed naturally where the moat overflowed. The Tuckers have turned it into a feature of the garden adding a wooden pontoon that leads past plantings of *Iris pseudacorus* 'Variegata' to a lovers' seat offering views of both house and garden.

How to manage water features

Solid support

Hindringham Hall's 12th-century moat creates a natural flow, leading visitors round the main features of the garden. However, the banks suffer from erosion, which is stabilised with large dramatic swathes of *Senecio* and *Buddleia*, all raised from cuttings.

Focus on the positives

When the Tuckers bought an adjoining field three years ago, it was planted with trees and was very wet. "We knew there were Medieval fishponds there," says Charles. "So we felled the trees, revealed and dammed the fishponds, sowed grass and introduced sheep as living lawnmowers." Eventually, they will install sluice gates, but in the meantime the couple have solved a problem while also saving part of Hindringham's history.

Adaptable planting

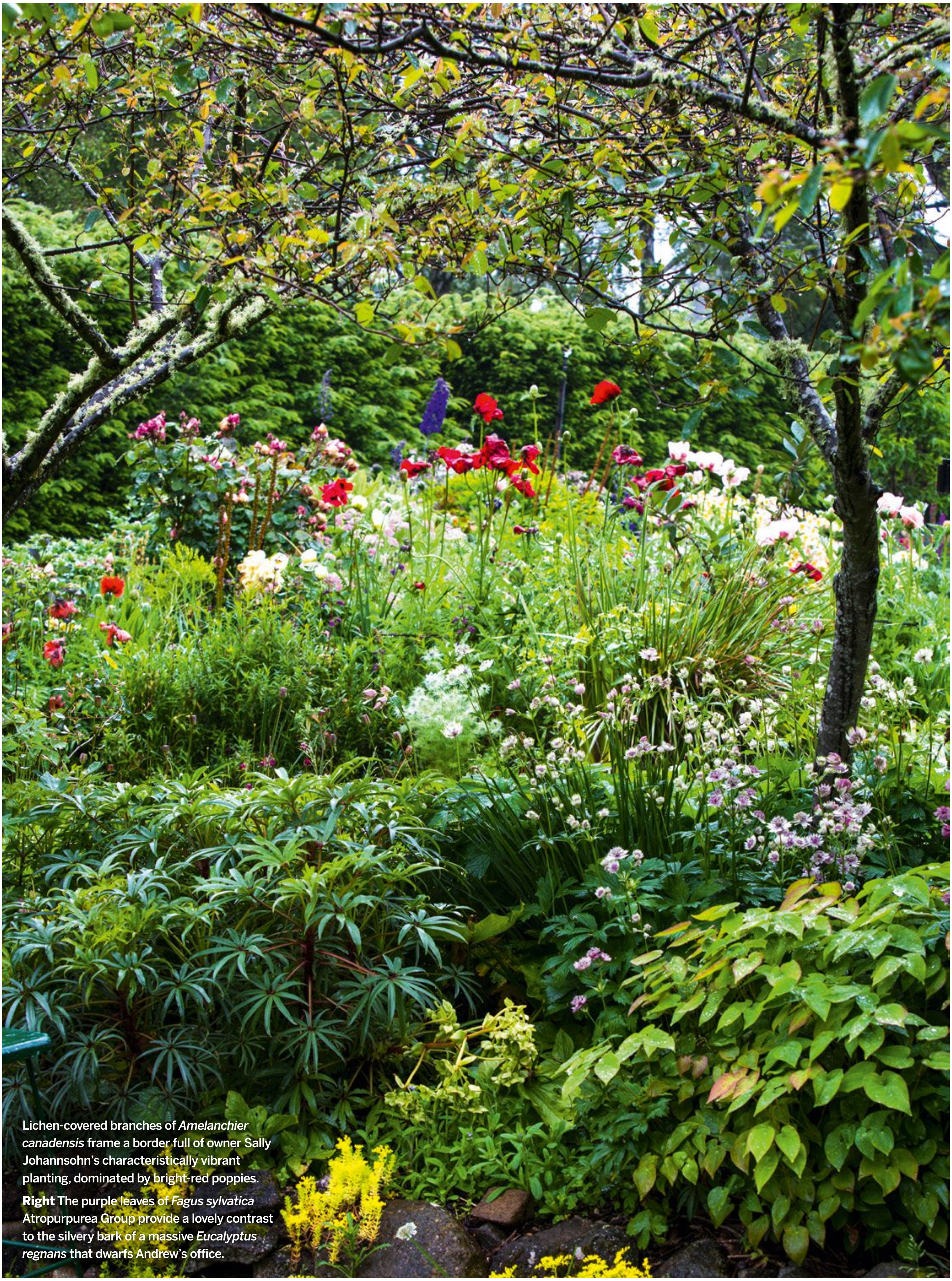
Although Lynda has planted a giant *Gunnera manicata* in the Bog Garden, her advice on planting up a bog is to "keep it simple with yellow iris, reeds and water lilies in case you lose plants with the changing levels of water".

Go with the flow

In the Stream Garden, Lynda has planted hostas along one bank of the Stiffkey Stream with day lilies on the other to create an eye-catching impression of three streams. Shade- and damp-loving primulas and hellebores provide splashes of colour.

Natural defences

Lynda and Charles employ some natural help to keep blanket weed and elodea under control. "Grass carp enjoy the weed," says Lynda, "while the heron enjoys the carp, so it's a race!"



Lichen-covered branches of *Amelanchier canadensis* frame a border full of owner Sally Johannsohn's characteristically vibrant planting, dominated by bright-red poppies.

Right The purple leaves of *Fagus sylvatica* Atropurpurea Group provide a lovely contrast to the silvery bark of a massive *Eucalyptus regnans* that dwarfs Andrew's office.

In brief

What Cool climate Australian garden.
Where Neika, a small township 15km from Hobart, in Tasmania.
Size Two acres of cultivated garden, within an eight-acre garden.
Climate Positioned in sheltered forest valley with adequate rainfall, snow in winter but no severe frosts.
Soil Basalt.
Hardiness rating USDA 9b.

Ahead of the curve

A garden tucked into a peaceful and sheltered valley on Tasmania's magnificent Mount Wellington proved the perfect location for Sally Johannsohn to indulge her love of rare and unusual cool-climate plants

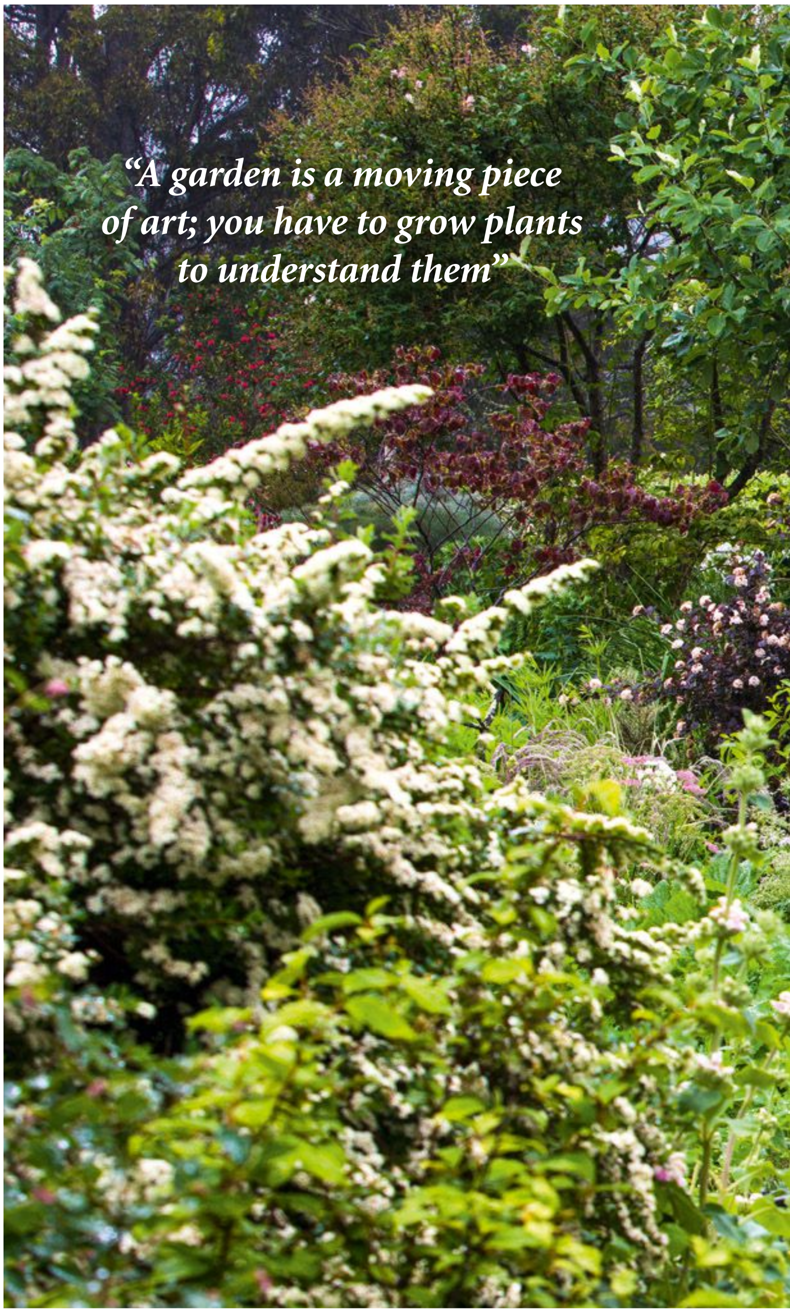
WORDS **CHRISTINE REID** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLAIRE TAKACS**

A garden filled with wonderful, thriving cool-climate plants is a rarity in Australia. Even more rare is that this beautiful garden has a small nursery attached and understandably, it's the cause of many gardeners' envy. However, it's the location of this garden that offers the clue as to why it flourishes. In 1988 garden maker Sally Johannsohn and her husband, the nature writer Andrew Darby, bought their dream house, which Sally had visited in childhood, and that came with eight acres of land. Tucked into a peaceful, sheltered valley on magnificent Mount Wellington, the backdrop to Tasmania's state capital Hobart, the house and gardens sit within a natural amphitheatre. Embraced by tall, beautiful eucalypts, it offered Andrew an opportunity to indulge his passion for birds and nature, and Sally hers for plants.

Over the course of the past 28 years Sally has transformed the two acres closest to the house into a glorious garden. Having trained as a florist in London, Sally spent several years running her own florist shop in Hobart, but when she and Andrew bought the house and began seeking out and propagating plants for the garden, the natural next step was to start a nursery and mail-order business (which they called Plant Hunters). Fuelled by her love of plants and training as a florist, Sally is particularly adept at combining colours and textures into enticing pictures. She has the marvellous ability to layer different plants so they form beautiful tableaux of colour and form. Her particular passion is for unusual and rare, cool-climate plants and she takes inspiration from gardeners and designers from around the world – and in 2014 she worked as a guest gardener at Chanticleer, the renowned garden estate near Philadelphia, in the USA. I talked to her about her influences, and the evolution of her remarkable garden.

How did your interest in gardening begin?

The natural world has been a lifelong interest, and my parents were gardeners. My London years and training as a florist stimulated my interest in unusual plants. When I returned to Tasmania, I became frustrated at the limited plant choice and began mail-ordering seeds from all over the world. Of course, you don't get just one seed but a packet. I started potting up and that's how the nursery began. ▷



> *"A garden is a moving piece of art; you have to grow plants to understand them"*

Main image

A remarkable tapestry of colour that shows the hand of a trained florist. In this border Sally has woven the pale blooms of the compact *Spiraea* 'Arguta' shrub, on the left, and the delicate purple mist of a thalictrum, to its right, between the rich purple foliage of *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diabolo' and the dazzling brilliance of the bright-pink *Phygelius aequalis* 'Sani Pass', in the foreground.

Bottom row left to right

This curved stone seat is a punctuation point above a pond with a carefully controlled palette of orange flowers, including *Geum* 'Mrs J Bradshaw', that help light up this corner in summer. Come autumn, the apricot-pink leaves of a nearby *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* help to continue the orange theme.

A perfect example of Sally's love of the curvaceous. This landform, created by Sally and Andrew, encloses a group of Tibetan cherry trees, *Prunus serrulata*, which are especially glorious in spring.

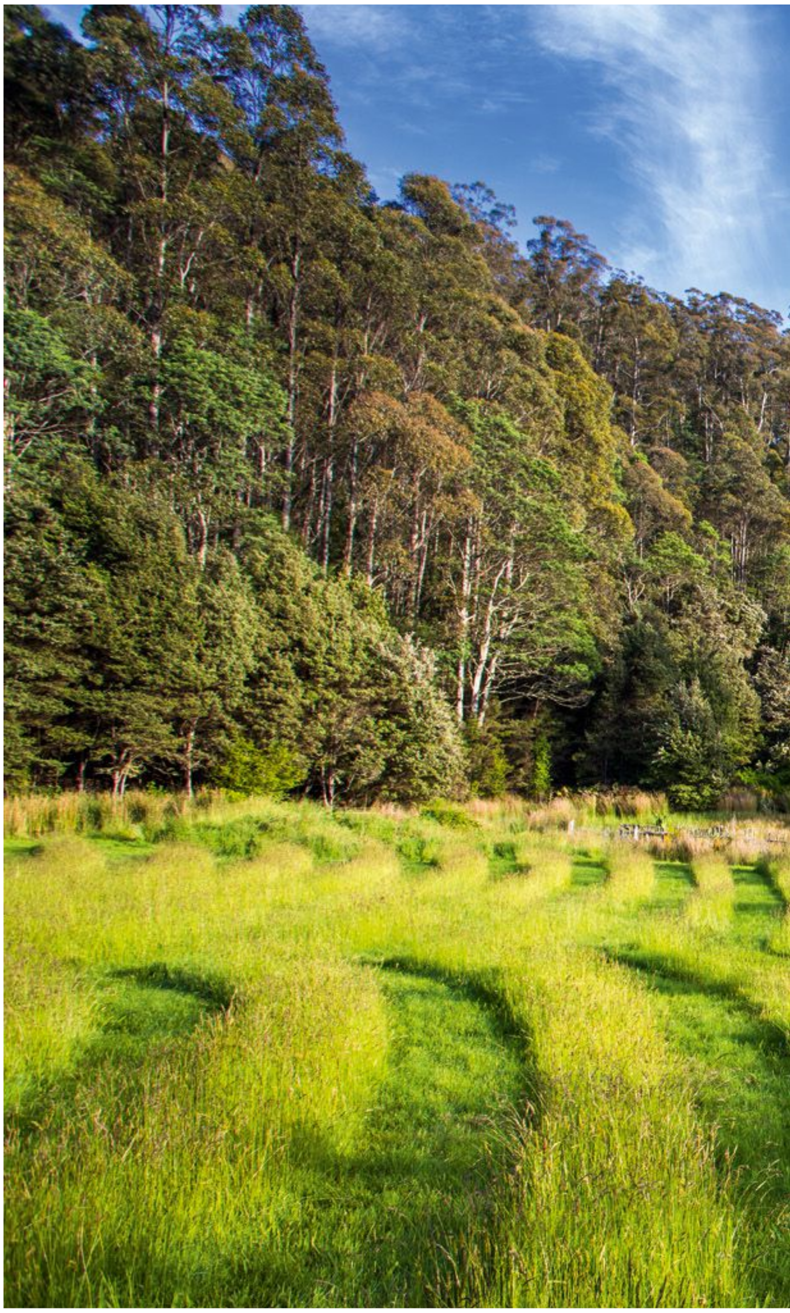
Border planting by the pond includes plants that enjoy damp conditions, such as *Ligularia* 'Britt Marie Crawford' with *Paeonia* 'Black Panther' and *Nothofagus gunnii*, the only deciduous tree endemic to temperate Australia. The tall, bamboo-like plant, fanned out like a peacock's tail in the background is *Elegia capensis*.

▷ **Do the mature trees in the garden ever cause you problems?**
They were here when we arrived and we have learned to work around them. I think the previous owners just planted out their Christmas conifers each year. At first, we thought nothing would grow beneath them. It was a visit to Dan Hinkley, when he had Heronswood Nursery [in the USA], that made me realise the mature trees were not a problem, but a godsend. He showed me all the lovely woodland plants that thrive in these conditions; he told me how to make the paths over the tree roots and plant in between. Cyclamen, for example, will grow right up over the tree trunk. On a very hot day here, the cool shade is wonderful.

Trials and errors in planting?
Early on I planned and developed a double herbaceous border. I had the climate for it, I thought, but somehow I was never comfortable with it. I realised that kind of formal garden didn't suit my personality. So I pulled it out and replaced it with beds with informal curves. I have always loved the work of Alexander Calder and Joan Miró – those friendly organic shapes – and these artists have informed my design ideas.

How do you feel the garden has changed and evolved?
A garden is a moving piece of art; you have to grow plants to understand them. You have to see how competitive a plant is, you watch how it flowers and how it seeds, even how it dies. That's what is so fascinating about them. I have become more adventurous and it's a thrill to track down some plant I might be able to grow in my garden. Each season there's nothing like seeing a plant flower for the first time or discovering that a picky plant does exceptionally well.

Do you have any advice to give on landscaping?
Yes, I think everyone needs to focus on completing a project. Get one area under control that you are happy with. Do the edging and paths properly, put in the structural plants, then add the more ephemeral ones. It's important get the balance right between design and plants – both of them are important to me. Our aim has been to make good connections within the garden. For example, the stone walls – the design and material – form a connecting line in the driveway, leading the eye across. In another area, we pruned the box balls to echo the shape of the rocks nearby. Everything here is curved; the stone walls and seats all reflect the amphitheatre shape of the hills around us. There's even an area we call the Orchestra Pit: where the acoustics are really good. We cut the grass in the meadow in beautiful curves, too. ▷



Main image

Sally loves creating curves in her garden, they help to connect the garden to the shapes in the mountains and bush beyond. The curves cut into the meadow grass reflect the natural bush behind, chiefly *Eucalyptus regnans*. "The mown strips look gorgeous all year round," Sally says "and we created them just for fun." The single specimen trees are part of a collection of South American *Nothofagus* centre.

Bottom row left to right

This view near the entrance to the drive showcases an area where shade-loving plants thrive. Yellow *Papaver cambricum* (right foreground), with *Ferula communis* behind, happy beneath mature trees, such as the birch (right) and Washington thorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*), in the centre.

As the mist closes in over Mount Wellington and the garden, a fine example of *Elaeagnus* 'Quicksilver' hovers over the mounds of *Buxus microphylla* with a stately bay tree in the background, left, as a punctuation point on the path around the house.

This spring-fed pond, or as Sally calls it the top pond, has water-loving plants nearby with *Gunnera manicata* and *Primula prolifera* in front. The water reflects plants of the Australian bush beyond, including the tall eucalyptus and the woolly tea tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) in front.

"Everything here is curved; the stone walls and seats all reflect the amphitheatre shape of the hills around us"

Sally's kitchen window looks out over the giant leaves of a *Gunnera manicata* and dense bush to the waters of D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

> *"I love seeing where plants grow in the wild… travelling has opened my eyes to the extraordinary flora in different parts of the world"*

▷ As far as plants are concerned, I particularly like to combine endemic Tasmanian plants with the exotics.

If you could offer fellow gardeners one tip, what would it be?
Find plants that do well for you and stick to them. It's possible to grow a wide range of plants if you think of the zones in your garden – sunny, wet or shady. I have been much influenced by Beth Chatto whose ethos is right plant, right place. I am always trying to be more considered in my planting, trying to get the right effect with each layer.

How do you manage running the nursery and the garden?
We only open the garden and nursery twice a year – autumn and spring. Our mail-order customers have developed into a collectors' clientele as many of our plants are site specific. I like to do everything myself, especially the packing of plants. And I have the marvellous Jonathan to weed for me once a fortnight. At peak times Andrew helps, too.

Where are your favourite places for plant hunting?
I love seeing plants grow in the wild from Iran to the Canary Islands. Travelling has opened my eyes to the extraordinary flora in different parts of the world. For my next trip I hope to travel to Kyrgyzstan. □

9 of Sally's key plants

1 *Nectaroscordum siculum*
Known as the Sicilian honey garlic, this bulbous perennial is sometimes mistaken for fritillaries. Sally loves their subtle beauty with the drooping flowers. "Their soft colours look good with yellows and purples," she says. 1.2m. RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b[†].

2 *Lobelia aberdarica*
An evergreen plant that increases gradually. Although Sally loves this African lobelia for its foliage, her favourite of these lobelias is the dramatic *L. keniensis*, from the cool mountains of Kenya. 3m.

3 *Euphorbia griffithii* 'Fireglow'
Sally is a huge fan of all euphorbias, particularly the deciduous ones, but this one with its brilliant orange-red floral bracts in early summer, is one of her favourites. It looks good all year round in informal plantings. 75cm. RHS H7, USDA 4a-9b.

4 *Pachystegia insignis*
This pretty daisy-like plant comes from the Marlborough Sound area of New Zealand. It loves rocky crevices and Sally grows it in her stone walls. It is tough, yet has velvety soft leaves and the flowers are like grey bobbles before they open. 60cm. RHS H4, USDA 8b-10b.

5 *Glaucium corniculatum*
You could grow this poppy for its beautiful foliage alone but the unusual colour of the tangerine flowers are gorgeous, too. A fabulous combination. 10cm. USDA 5b-10b.

6 *Lilium akkusianum*
Sally has raised this rare and beautiful lily – found growing in beech groves and forest locations in Turkey – from seed. She has nurtured them in pots and now has them growing in the garden. 60cm.

7 *Digitalis parviflora*
The chocolate foxglove is a great plant for vertical accents and its biscuit-coloured flowers blend with everything. It self-seeds and always seems to find a spot that's just perfect for it. 60cm. RHS H4, USDA 4a-9b.

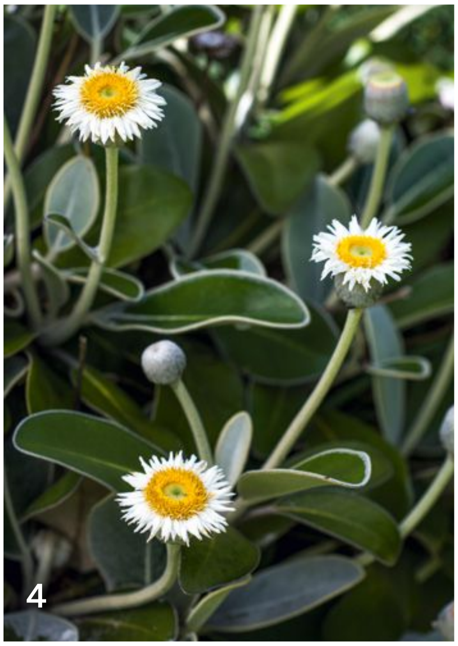
8 *Rhaponticum centaureoides*
Sally loves this plant – previously known as *Centaurea* 'Pulchra Major' – most just before the flowers mature when its wonderful papery-looking silver buds look perfect with the pink just emerging. It takes time to establish. 1m.

9 *Meconopsis* Fertile Blue Group
This beautiful blue poppy is now in its fourth year of flowering in Sally's garden and she has found the perfect place for it to flourish. It is the envy of all who visit. 75cm.

1

2

3


4

5

6

7

8

9

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. [†]Hardiness ratings given where available.

All the earth's a stage

In the first of a four-part series on gardens, nature and serendipity, the writer and broadcaster Richard Mabey welcomes the part nature plays in populating his Norfolk garden with its *dramatis personae* – all with their entrances and, alas, their exits

WORDS RICHARD MABEY ILLUSTRATION ALICE PATTULLO

Some years back we were in the habit of depositing the remains of the Friday night *moules* on to the compost heap, thus injecting, we reasoned, a useful shot of calcium into the nutrient chain. But the garden's *genius loci* had other ideas. In the days that followed each dumping small clusters of mussel shells began to appear all over the shop. It wasn't some random strewing. They were arranged in neat cairns at the foot of trees and tucked against shed walls like bowerbird displays. I've no idea who the landscaper was. Magpies make ornamental collections, but not usually on this scale, and I'd plump for a particularly aesthetic brown rat. Whatever lay behind the ornamentation, the lustrous blue and mother-of-pearl way-markers were something we would never have dreamed up for ourselves.

I like the idea of the garden as an arena for other organisms' creativity. We tend to assume that gardens are, by definition, expressions of the gardener's tastes and ideas. But why can't they also be open stages, frameworks inside which wild cards – uninvited organisms, dramatic weather, ancient processes of succession and decay – improvise their own landscapes? This is how a good deal of our plot in south Norfolk operates, and over the next four seasons I'll be telling some stories of what you might call the serendipitous garden.

> *"A super ash rooted at the edge of the pond is an amphitheatre for birds, and a dramatic weathervane. Ash branches are fluent, and when a good wind blows it is as if waves of wood are breaking over the water"*

There's a touch of serendipity even in its structure. The two acres stretch from a formal herbaceous border at one end to a small wood at the other, and degrees of intervention follow the same gradient. At the juncture of cultivation and the wild there is a deep pond, fed by a cold spring. I'm not sure it was deliberately created as a body of water; more likely it was dug 400 years ago to provide clay for the house walls, and then filled up of its own accord. Now tits and woodpeckers drink under cover of the tangled tree roots that drape its steep sides.

Trees enclose and permeate the garden and are what everything in it would turn into, given the chance. A good few came with the property, and our most gleeful house-warming present to ourselves was felling nine monstrous x *Cupressocyparis leylandii* in the first week of occupation. The 15 mature hardwoods at the far end of the garden were another matter. They are about 50 years old, well-spaced and mostly of native species – cherry, ash, beech – and I could see the beginnings of a wood there. With hindsight I'm not sure why I bothered to plant a few saplings in the gaps, when it was quite obvious that the woody incumbents would do their own propagation. Sure enough, freed from the mowing that our predecessors had done between the trees, the ground soon bristled with self-sown seedlings. Oaks came from the big tree on our boundary, hybridised here and there with pollen from turkey oaks in the lane. Cherries sprang from stones deposited by blackbirds, and from suckers. Half-a-dozen other species, including hazel, hornbeam and rowan, had their fruit blown or ferried in from nearby hedges. A sweet chestnut shot up through a bramble patch. Ten years on we have a closed canopy and a two-layered understorey.

I'm sad that the processes by which woods naturally regenerate have vanished so thoroughly from popular understanding, and that we now seem to believe that trees can only occupy ground if we thrust them in ourselves. Tree planting can be a valuable and entertaining business. It makes us feel we are giving something back to 'the environment'. It ensures you can put a chosen species in a preferred spot. But we kid ourselves if we think it's necessary. Prehistoric Britain was cloaked with the much mythologised wildwood without the help of a single forester. If there are seed trees about, young oaks, birches and thorns will establish themselves effortlessly in open ground and short grass and of course, inside woodland. And they'll be rooted in positions which have already proved to the tree's taste.

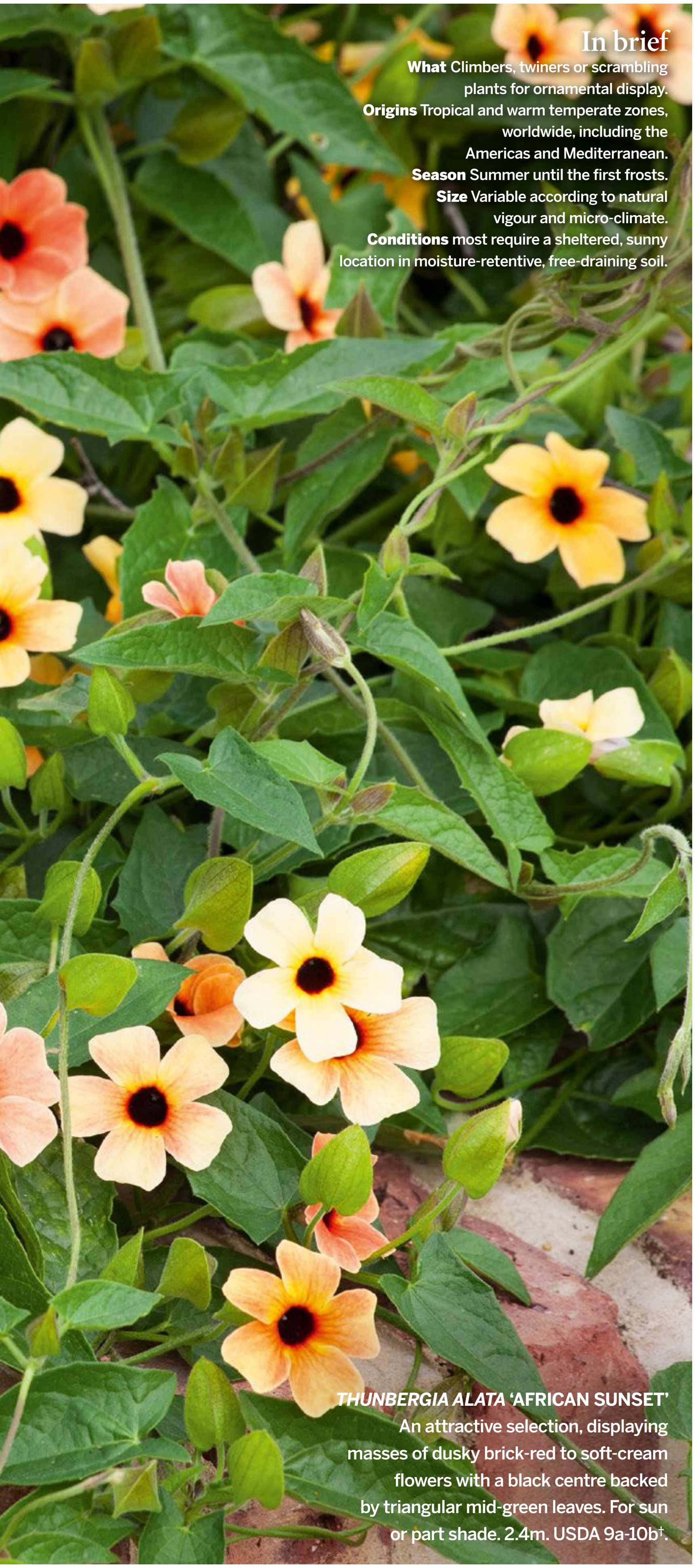
Here it's the ashes that are the worry. Sadly, they're the species that seeds least successfully in our garden, which means we haven't got the diversity of trees that might guarantee survival when ash dieback hits. We're only ten miles from the wood (called, ironically, Ashwellthorpe) where chalara first appeared in the wild in 2012, so we'll be lucky to escape. We have eight mature specimens, so if a significant percentage is afflicted it will change the whole feel of our home patch. The dominant tree, the super ash, is a multi-stemmed specimen rooted at the edge of the pond, which has a canopy 20 metres across. It's an amphitheatre for birds, and a dramatic weathervane. Ash branches are fluent, and when a good wind blows it is as if waves of wood are breaking over the water. There is nothing to be done about dieback, so my response is to take care of the self-sown hazels and oaklings that are growing close to the ashes by lopping some of the latter's branches where necessary. That way there will at least be some established trees to grow into the skeletons of the dead ashes.

They can't replace the ashes; but then again, all woods are dynamic and continuously changing their species quotas. In ten years, if we did absolutely nothing, the entire garden would have become an unpredictably mixed forest – which is a pleasant prospect for when we're too old to push the mower. □

Annual climbers

With so many to choose from, climbing annuals sown and grown in a year are a surprisingly easy way to lift the summer spirits

WORDS **MATTHEW BIGGS**



In brief

What Climbers, twiners or scrambling plants for ornamental display.
Origins Tropical and warm temperate zones, worldwide, including the Americas and Mediterranean.
Season Summer until the first frosts.
Size Variable according to natural vigour and micro-climate.
Conditions most require a sheltered, sunny location in moisture-retentive, free-draining soil.

***THUNBERGIA ALATA* ‘AFRICAN SUNSET’** An attractive selection, displaying masses of dusky brick-red to soft-cream flowers with a black centre backed by triangular mid-green leaves. For sun or part shade. 2.4m. USDA 9a-10b†.

GAP PHOTOS / JONATHAN BUCKLEY; DESIGN: SARAH RAVEN

Matthew Biggs is a Kew-trained gardener, TV presenter and the author of several books. He is also a regular panellist on BBC Radio 4’s *Gardeners’ Question Time*.

There is a small, select group of annual climbers that are too often overlooked, yet can bring subtle touches and welcome bursts of colour to brighten the garden in summer. Of the hardy annual climbers, sweet peas are the most popular. Cultivated by the Moors in Spain as early as 1450, sweet peas were introduced to the UK in the 17th century from seeds sent by the Sicilian monk Father Franciscus Cupani to the Netherlands in 1699. The mauve and maroon cultivar that bears his name (see page 57) and the similar ‘Matucana’ were the first in cultivation and both are still well worth growing.

Most of our half-hardy annual climbers are perennial in warmer climates and grown as annuals in cooler conditions. As a group, they vary in vigour. Some, such as the species peas, are impeccably behaved, while others, including ipomeas, romp away, particularly when hot summers remind them of their native habitats. Speed of growth makes them ideal for clothing a new garden, providing temporary screening or softening hard surfaces. Where the micro climate allows for overwintering outdoors, the cumulative effect can be spectacular. A glorious *Ipomoea indica*, planted at least 20 years ago by the side of a building in the courtyard at Lambeth Palace in London, has now reached the top of the wall and is around 20m tall.

Most half hardy annual climbers flower prolifically from midsummer to first frosts but they need a long growing season and early pruning for maximum impact. Grow from seed or mail-order plugs, then pinch out the shoot tips as they grow, to encourage dense side shooting and increased flowering.

Among the most popular are iridescent morning glories, which look wonderful when backlit by the sun. From the same family as bindweed, they have been cultivated for centuries and their diversity of flower colour and form is encapsulated in *Ipomoea quamoclit* (page 58) and *Ipomoea* ▷

---

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.

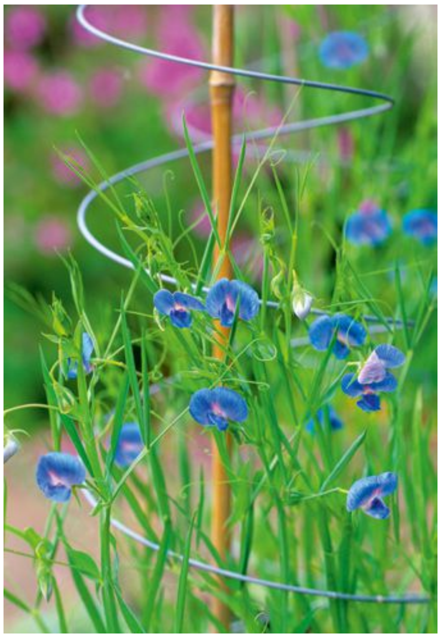
▷ *lobata*. The more familiar *Ipomoea purpurea* has been in cultivation since 1629. Like the majority of half-hardy climbers, they need a sheltered sunny spot and room to roam. Be sure to start them off indoors in small pots or modules to avoid disturbing roots when transplanted. They will need hardening off in cooler conditions once temperatures have increased (see Cultivation page 57).

Ipomoea purpurea are particularly cold sensitive when young and show their disapproval with pale-yellow or white leaves, growth is checked, and they often never recover. But in the right conditions they produce masses of beautiful, albeit short-lived, flowers. One lovely cultivar is 'Grandpa Ott' (page 57), which was given to nursery owners Kent and Diane Whealy in 1972 by Diane's grandfather, Baptist John Ott. Baptist was the son of Bavarian immigrants who had grown morning glory over the porch of their farm in Iowa, from seeds they brought from their garden in Germany. On what turned out to be her last visit to Grandpa Ott, Diane took away some seeds (along with those of a heritage tomato). This sparked her interest in heirloom seeds and led to her founding the Seed Savers Exchange in the USA.

For something more unusual – and guaranteed to be a talking point – try *Rhodochiton atrosanguineus* (page 57) with its bizarre, and frankly phallic, flowers, politely described in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* (1839) as 'giving character to our trellises'. Or *Caiophora laterita* (page 59), with its unusual keeled petals and tufts of anthers projecting from the centre of the flower. I have seen this growing among sage and twining through spiny barberry. Perhaps the latter was to deter passers-by from touching the stinging hairs on its stems – the author Jane Loudon in her 1840 book *The Ladies' Flower-Garden of Ornamental Annuals* describes their sting as 'much worse than those of the nettle'. Its seedpods are equally strange; they look like screws with an irregular wing and spike at the end.

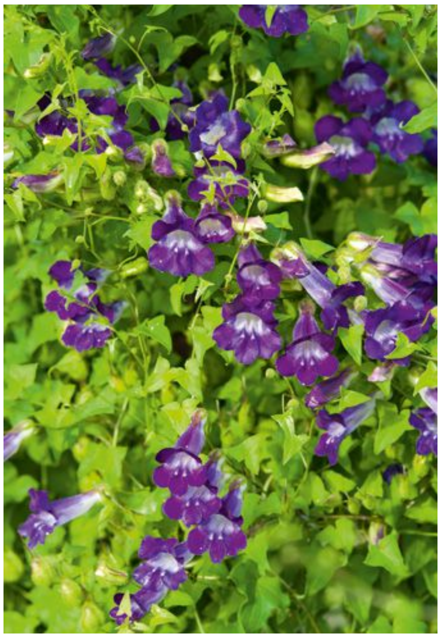
Whether your taste is for the bizarre or the traditional, annual climbers always create an impact in a relatively short space of time and are a welcome embellishment to the beauty of a garden. □

- Matthew's recommendations for annual climbers continue over the next six pages.



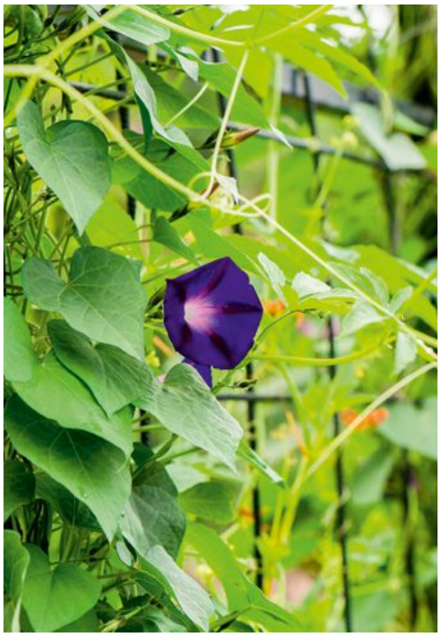
MMGI / MARIANNE MAJERUS

LATHYRUS SATIVUS* F. *AZUREUS
The fragile appearance of this elegant and dainty sweet pea, with grassy foliage and small, beautiful, azure-blue flowers, belies a tough constitution. It is tolerant of drought and waterlogging. 90cm. USDA 1a-11.



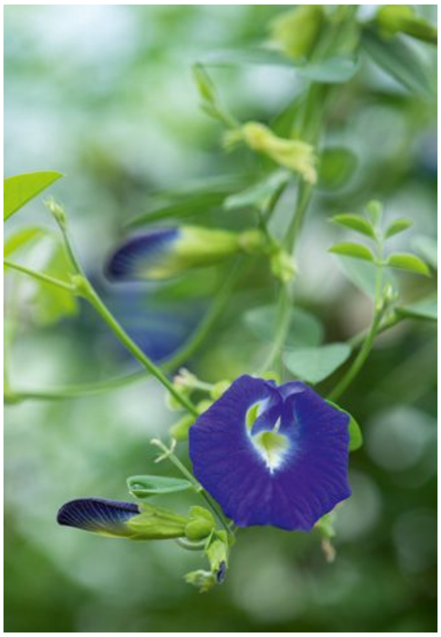
THE GARDEN COLLECTION / FP / BIOSPHOTO / ALEXANDRE PETZOLD

MAURANDYA BARCLAYANA
A pretty, free-flowering herbaceous climber that supports itself with the aid of twining leaf stems. Worth growing for its ivy-shaped leaves and elegant, foxglove-like flowers. It thrives in light, well-drained soil. 1.5m.



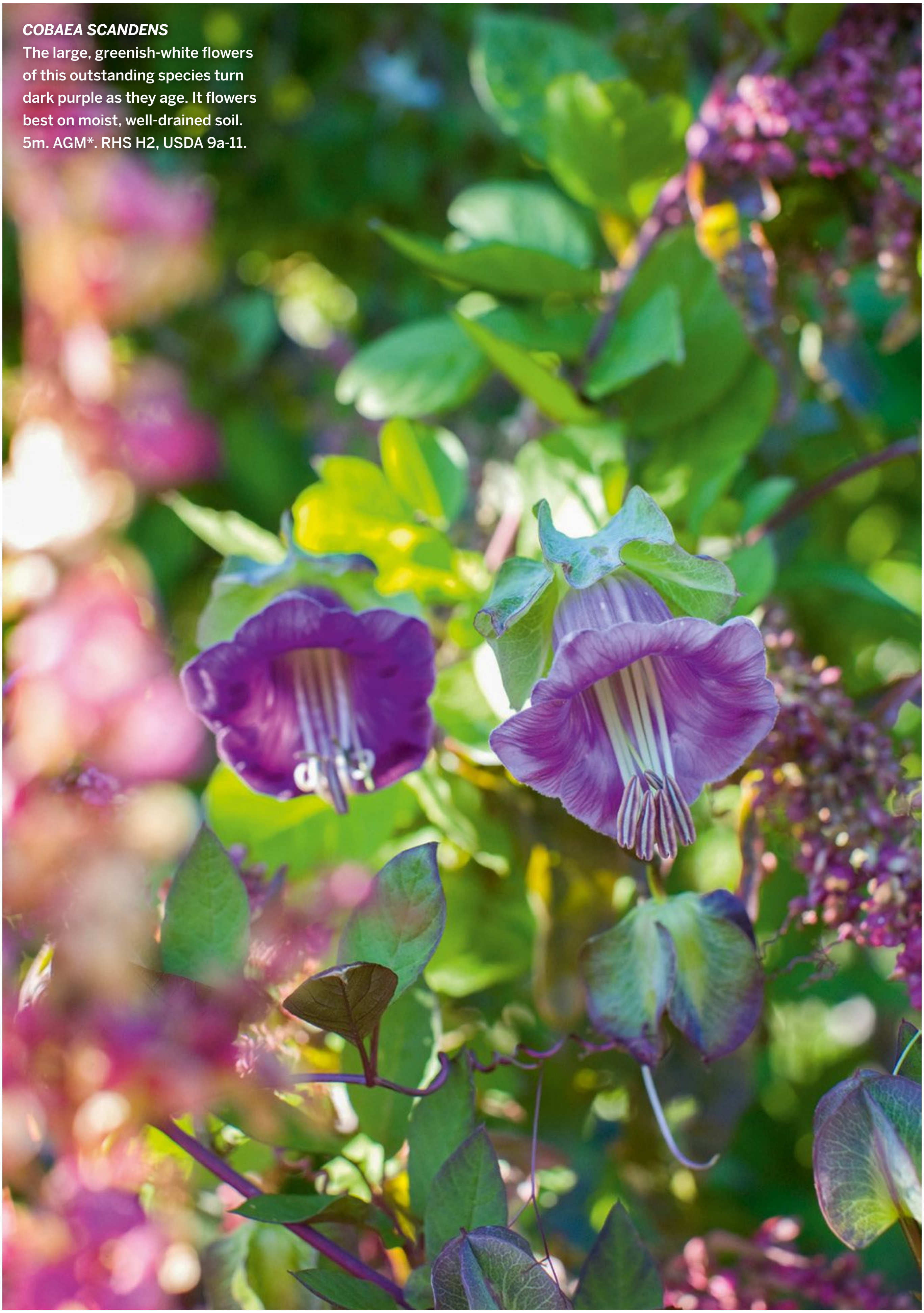
ANNE GILBERT / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

***IPOMOEA PURPUREA* 'STAR OF YALTA'**
This herbaceous perennial, grown as an annual, has deep-purple flowers with a star of deep pink radiating from the centre of the flower to the tips of the petals. It can also be used as ground cover. 1.8m.



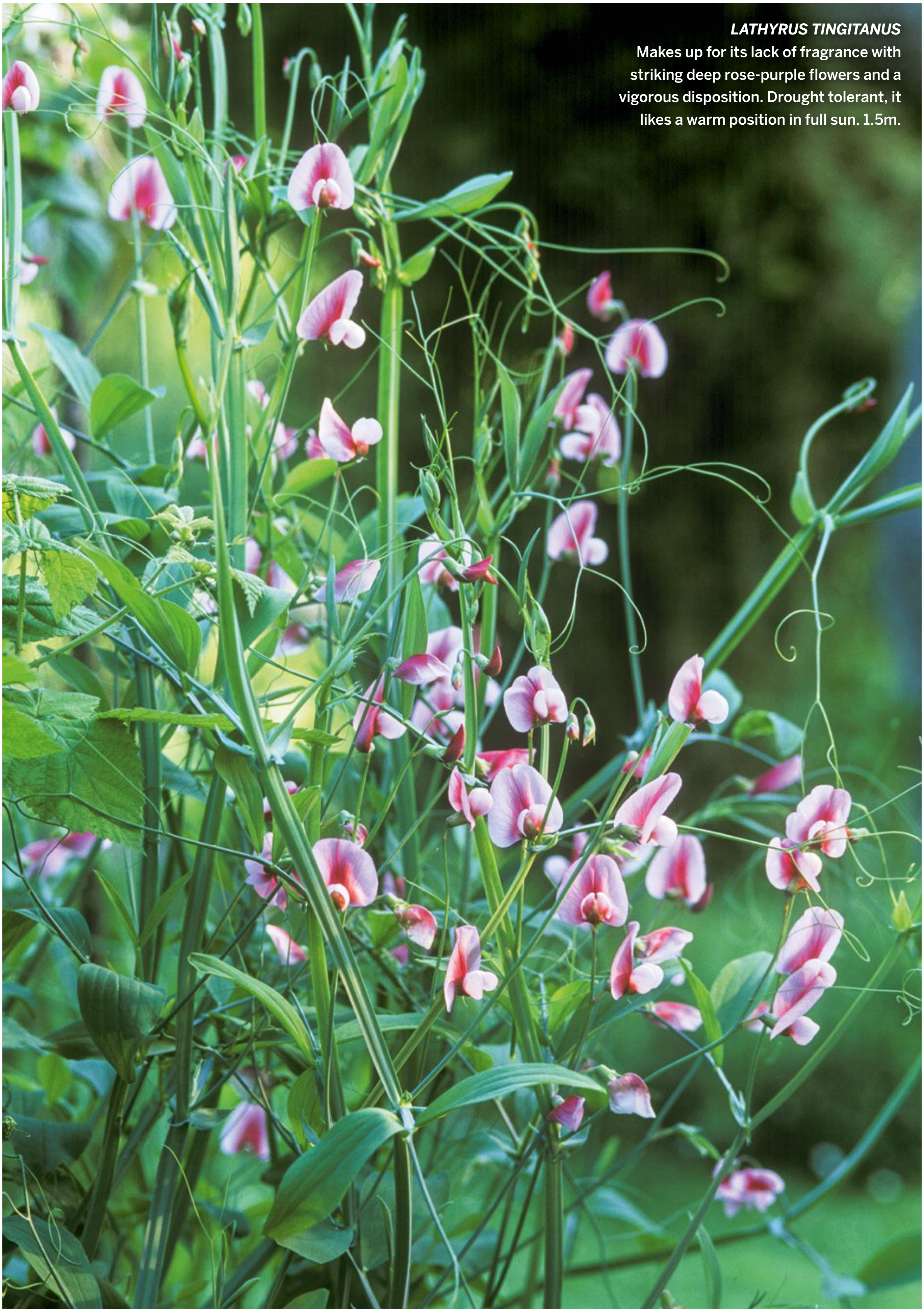
HOWARD RICE / GAP PHOTOS

CLITORIA TERNATEA
This fast-growing tropical climber produces exotically shaped flowers of vivid deep blue. It needs plenty of warmth and sunshine and is at its best during long, hot summers. 2.4m. USDA 10a-11.



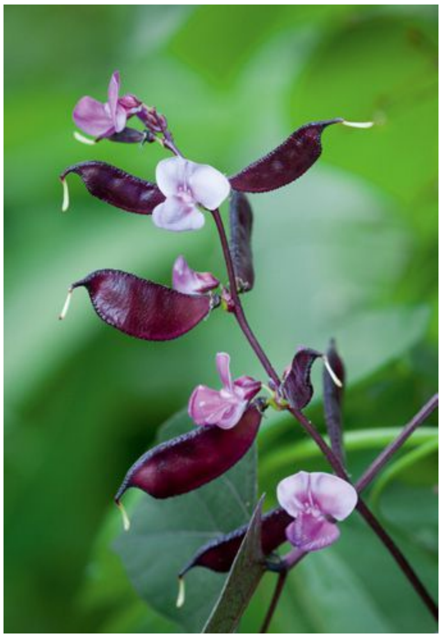
COBAEA SCANDENS
The large, greenish-white flowers of this outstanding species turn dark purple as they age. It flowers best on moist, well-drained soil. 5m. AGM*. RHS H2, USDA 9a-11.

GAP PHOTOS / PERNILLA BERGDAHL, SIMON IRVINE LACKO SLOTT



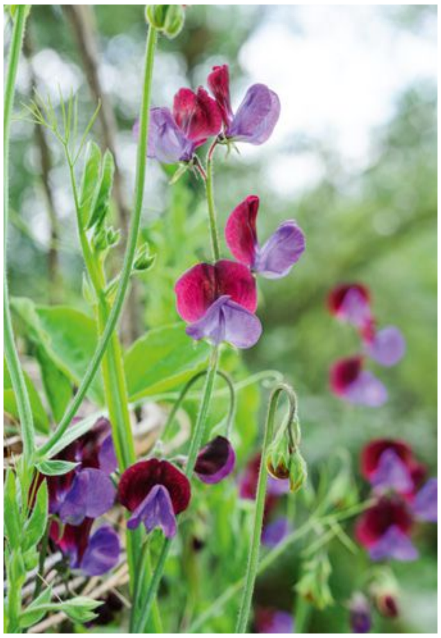
LATHYRUS TINGITANUS
Makes up for its lack of fragrance with striking deep rose-purple flowers and a vigorous disposition. Drought tolerant, it likes a warm position in full sun. 1.5m.

GAP PHOTOS / HOWARD RICE



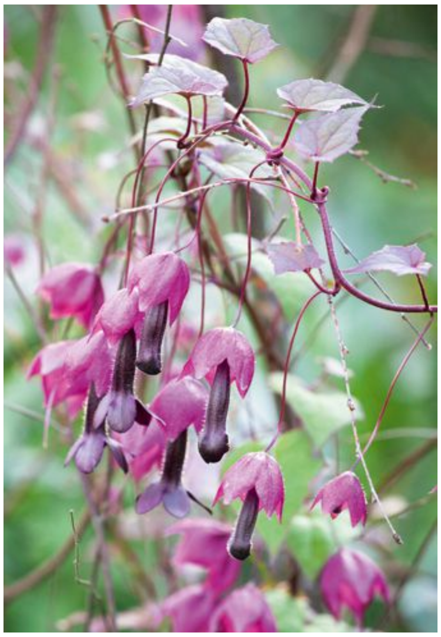
GAP PHOTOS / JONATHAN BUCKLEY

LABLAB PURPUREUS 'RUBY MOON'
The richly coloured purple blooms and shining purple pods that follow are complemented by purple-tinted foliage. It boasts a spread equal to height depending on the growing conditions. 6m. USDA 7a-10b.



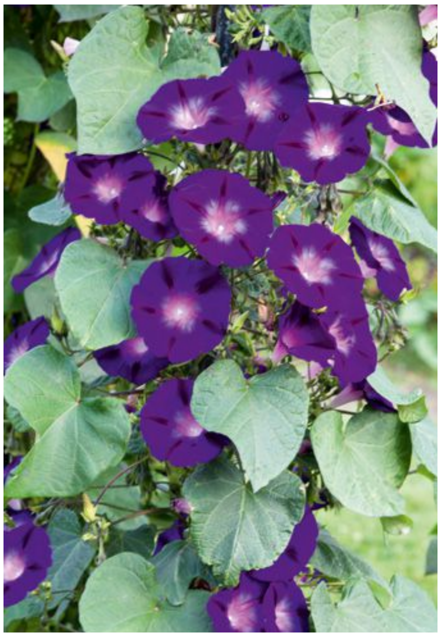
GAP PHOTOS / JASON INGRAM

LATHYRUS ODORATUS 'CUPANI'
Glorious sweet pea popular for its sweet fragrance and regal magenta and purple flowers, which are freely produced. Pick regularly to prolong the display, which often lasts until first frosts. 3m. AGM. RHS H2.



GAP PHOTOS / JONATHAN BUCKLEY

RHODOCHITON ATROSANGUINEUS
Often commented upon for its profusion of distinctive, and somewhat vulgar, tubular, black to reddish-purple flowers. Also has dark stems and heart-shaped, rich-green leaves. 3m. AGM. USDA 10a-11. RHS H2.



TERRY JENNINGS / GARDEN WORLD IMAGES

IPOMOEA PURPUREA 'GRANDPA OTT'
Similar in vigour and appearance to 'Star of Yalta' (page 54) but with a rosy, rather than white throat. Requires a warm, sheltered position to grow. Flowering continues into early autumn. 3m.

Cultivation

- Read the sowing instructions carefully, as some seeds need soaking for 24 hours before sowing. Start seeds off on a windowsill or propagator. As all the plants featured originate in sunnier climates, sow the seed into warmed compost, most at a minimum of 20°C, some including *Ipomoea* need to be warmer (20-27°C). Before you plant them outside 'harden off' by placing them in a sheltered position outdoors during the day and bringing them back under cover at night for around ten days before you plant out. Only plant out once the soil has warmed, air temperatures have increased and there is no danger of frost. It is better to err on the side of caution, as they will soon catch up.
- Most grow in moisture-retentive, free-draining soil or containers of John Innes No.2 compost. Avoid adding excessive amounts of well-rotted organic or high-nitrogen fertiliser, which encourages lush grown. Start with a general fertiliser, changing to a high-potash fertiliser to encourage flowering, once plants are established. Climbers, such as *Cobaea scandens* (see page 55), which are perennials in warmer climates, may last for several years if the roots are protected from frost by a wall or mulched with straw or similar. They can also be lifted and stored over winter in a cool, frost-free place, however, they will be more vigorous if you sow seeds annually.
- You can train plants up fences, temporarily covered with netting, on ornamental pergolas or arches. They can also be encouraged to scramble over shrubs, where evergreens provide the ideal background. They can also be grown up an obelisk or a tripod of canes in containers – most have twining stems or tendrils so need little, other than initial, support.

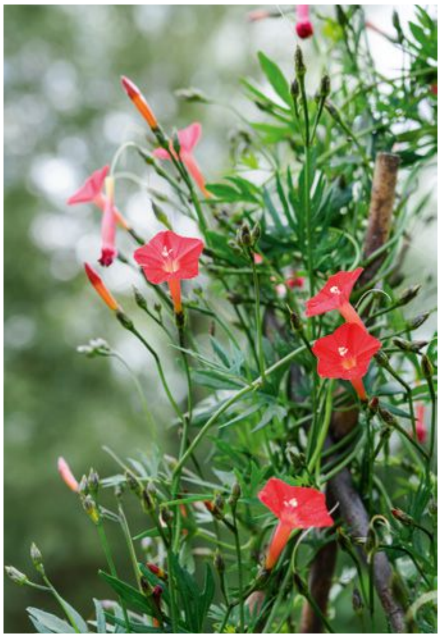
Plant associations

- Annual climbers make simple stand-alone displays in pots, particularly unusual subjects that demand individual appreciation, such as *Caiophora lateritia* (facing page) or *Lablab purpureus* 'Ruby Moon' (page 57). *Ipomoea lobata* is particularly attractive and its natural vigour soon hides the support.

- Sarah Raven combines *Thunbergia alata* 'African Sunset' (page 52) with *Rhodochiton atrosanguineus* (page 57) and uses *Lathyrus chloranthus* (facing page) in vases with dark sweet peas, such as 'Windsor'. I've grown *Lathyrus belensis* (facing page) through dark-leaved *Canna* 'Verdi' to good effect and *Lathyrus chloranthus* and *Ipomoea* cultivars, including 'Star of Yalta' (page 54) through an exotic border to enhance the 'jungle' effect.
- Use the fact the displays last just one season as an opportunity to experiment. For example, try planting *Lathyrus tingitanus* (page 56), with its silvery grey foliage, dark buds and end-of-season pods that are marked with a burgundy line along their edge, so that it scrambles over glaucus-foliaged conifers, such as *Picea pungens* 'Hoopsii'. Or, if you're growing *Rhodochiton atrosanguineus* (page 57) in summer containers, try combining it with tender plants, such as *Tibouchina urvilleana*, and the fucshia and lime-coloured leaves of helichrysum, which will provide stability if you are packing plants into a pot or half barrel. But make sure that whatever climber you select is vigorous enough to thrive in such a competitive environment.

Where to buy

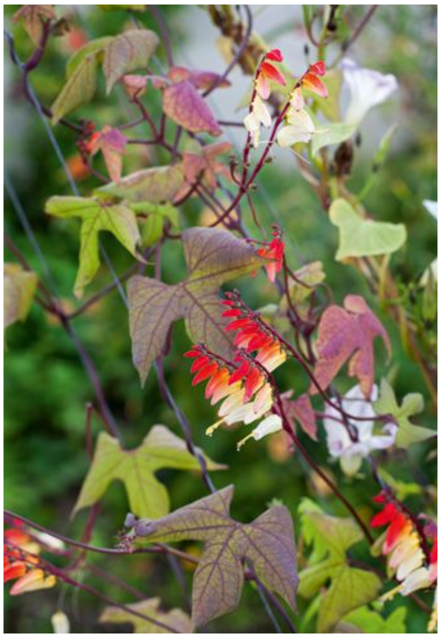
- **Chiltern Seeds**
  Crowmarsh Battle Barns,
  114, Preston Crowmarsh,
  Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 6SL.
  Tel 01491 824675,
  chilternseeds.co.uk
- **Owls Acre Seeds**
  Yew Tree Cottage, Foston on
  the Wolds, Driffield, East
  Yorkshire YO25 8BJ.
  owlsacreseeds.co.uk
- **Special Plants**
  Greenways Lane, Cold Ashton,
  Chippenham, Wiltshire SN148LA.
  Tel 01225 891686, specialplants.net



GAP PHOTOS / JASON INGRAM

IPOMOEA QUAMOCLIT

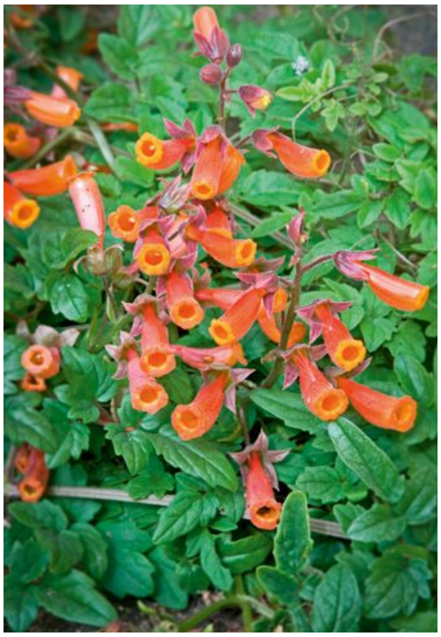
Handsome native of South America, valued for its attractive, bright-red flowers and deep green, fern-like foliage. It is drought tolerant and a favourite of humming birds. There is also a white form. 7m. USDA 11-12.



GAP PHOTOS / JAN SMITH

***IPOMOEA LOBATA* 'JUNGLE QUEEN'**

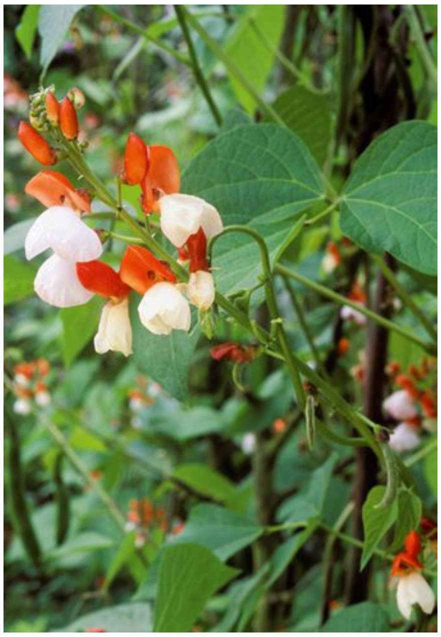
The vibrant, multi-coloured tubular flower-spikes of this particularly robust selection (from K Sahin's in the Netherlands) display a greater colour contrast than the species. For sun or shade. 3m. AGM.



C J WHEELER / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

***ECCREMOCARPUS SCABER* 'TANGERINE'**

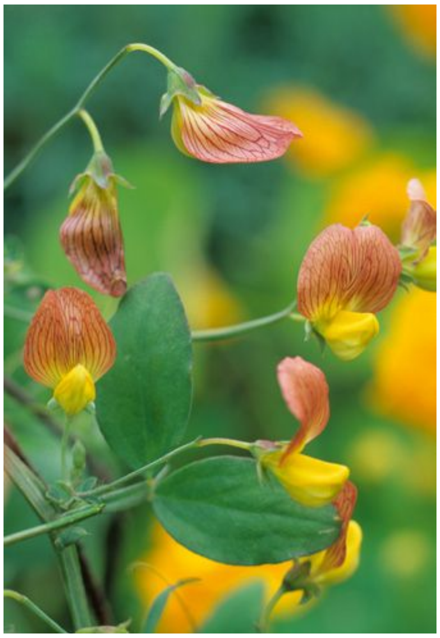
An open, slender climber that produces tubular flowers in shades of red, orange, pink and yellow, from late spring to autumn. The leaves, formed of greyish-green leaflets, create a pleasing texture. 3m. RHS H3, USDA 8a-11.



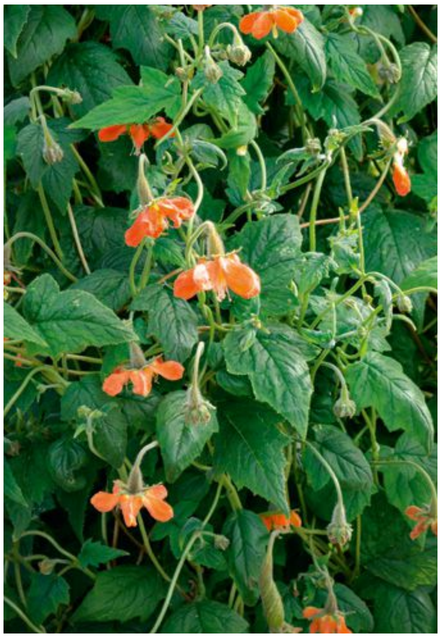
GAP PHOTOS / ANNIE GREEN-ARMYTAGE

***PHASEOLUS COCCINEUS* 'PAINTED LADY'**

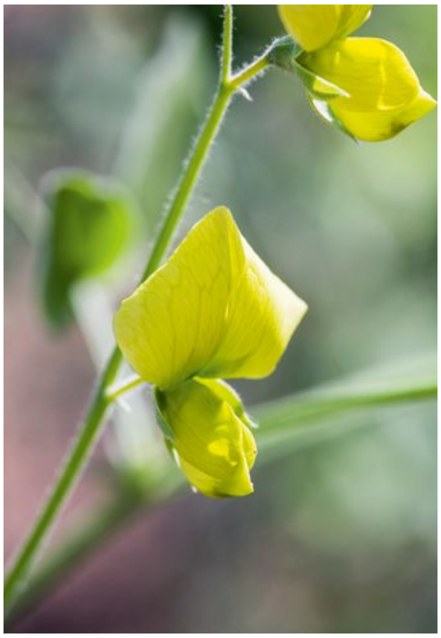
Runner beans have long been grown as ornamentals for gazebos and arbours. This pre-1855 cultivar produces tasty, medium-sized pods and the attractive flowers can also be used as a garnish. 3m.


ANDREW LAWSON / MARIANNE MAJERUS GARDEN IMAGES

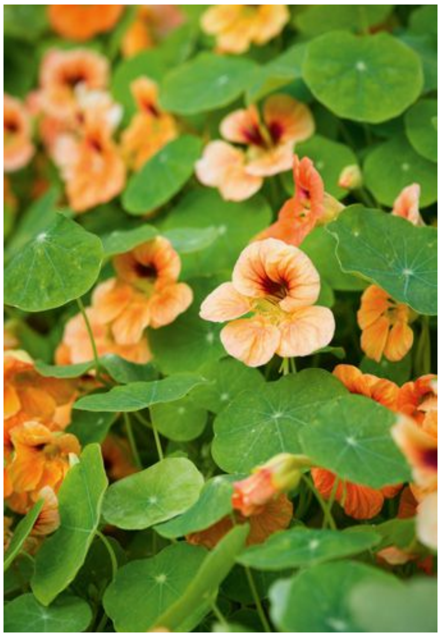
LATHYRUS BELINENSIS
The contrasting colour combination of brick-red and yellow makes this a pleasing yet unusual plant that is well worth seeking out. It is excellent trailing in containers or as a compact climber. 1.2m.


STEFFEN HAUSER / BOTANIKFOTO / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

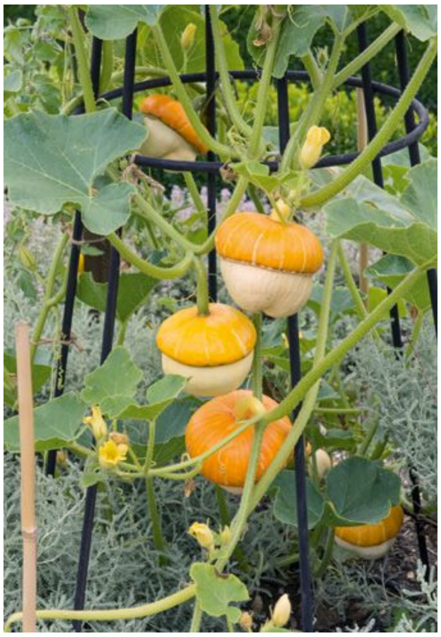
CAIOPHORA LATERITIA
A fascinating climber from Argentina and Chile with unusual, star-shaped, downward-facing, apricot flowers, twining stems and stinging hairs (only on mature plants). Also known as the twining tingle lily. 3m.


GAP PHOTOS / SHARON PEARSON

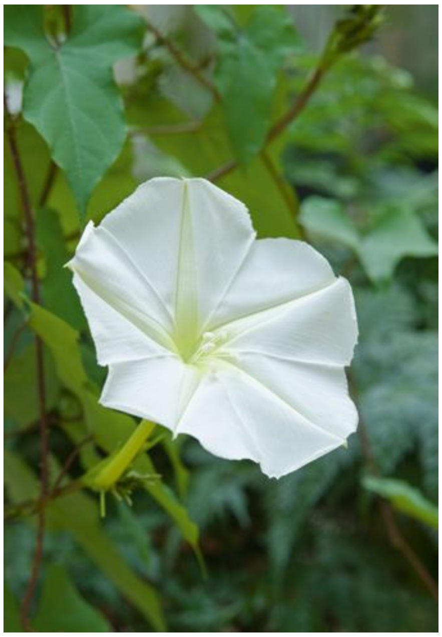
LATHYRUS CHLORANTHUS
Bright yellow-green and lime flowers ensure that this cheerful native of Asia Minor, will never go unnoticed. Best plants come from autumn sowings. Ideal fro scrambling over a hedge or up twiggy supports. 1.8m or more.


GAP PHOTOS / JOANNA KOSSAK

TROPAEOLUM MAJUS
There are many forms of this cheerful plant with fresh-green leaves and brightly coloured flowers in shades of red, yellow and orange. Happy to assert its right to roam wherever the gardener allows. 3m. USDA 10a-11


TREVOR SIMS / GARDEN WORLD IMAGES

***CUCURBITA MAXIMA* 'TURK'S TURBAN'**
These must-have winter squashes can be trained over arches or pergolas to add a sense of playfulness to a garden with their surreal shapes and colours. They are also an invaluable plant for late-season interest. 2m.


GAP PHOTOS / HOWARD RICE

IPOMOEA ALBA
Given a warm, sheltered position this ipomoea offers delicate white, sweetly fragrant, flowers up to 15cm in diameter. These open in the evening and disappear around dawn. 3m. USDA 10a-12.

Culture in the garden

Many of our most notable gardens are also places of cultural interest. We select 15 of our favourite places in which you can immerse yourself in art, literature, science, politics and music

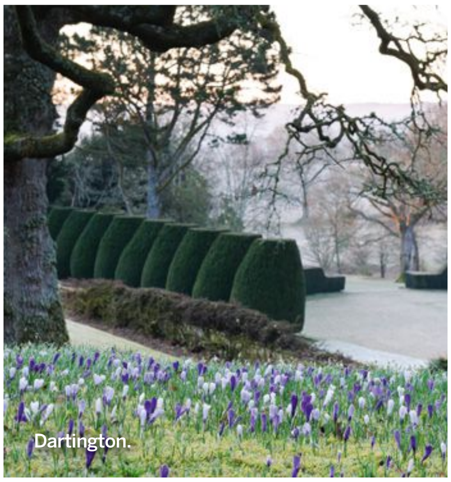
WORDS SORREL EVERTON

Hauser & Wirth

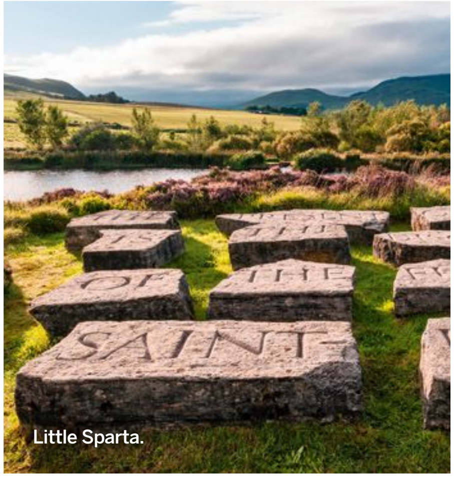
International gallery owners Hauser & Wirth invited eminent Dutch landscape designer Piet Oudolf to create a garden in the field beyond their gallery. Oudolf's drift-planted, perennial meadow allows for a softness of planting that loosens the formality of the gallery. 2017's first major exhibition is Djordje Ozbolt's *Brave New World*, a collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures and landscape interventions. **Address** Durslade Farm, Dropping Lane, Bruton, Somerset BA10 0NL. **Tel** 01749 814060, hauserwirthsomerset.com

Rousham.

Compton Verney.



Dartington.



Little Sparta.

JASON INGRAM; HARPUR GARDEN IMAGES; STUART THOMAS; JASON INGRAM; GARDENPICS / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

ART & LITERATURE

Rousham

Created in the 18th century by William Kent, Rousham continues to influence designers and visitors today with its classical narrative, structure, skilful sense of place, and clever use of light and shade to draw you on a journey through the garden. A lesson in masterful restraint. **Address** Steeple Aston, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX25 4QU. **Tel** 01869 347110, rousham.org

Compton Verney

Art gallery housed in a restored Georgian mansion and set within a 'Capability' Brown landscape. Brown's carefully managed viewpoints are used to display works of art and set up eye catchers. Designer Dan Pearson has created a parterre of native meadow plants, mown in a pattern based on William Morris designs. **Address** Compton Verney, Warwickshire CV35 9HZ. **Tel** 01926 645500, comptonverney.org.uk

Dartington

In 1925 Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst opened the doors of Dartington Hall to artists, economists, horticulturists and social reformers who would stimulate new thinking. That ethos continues today with a programme of events, courses and festivals, much of it focused on the arts. Dartington's cultural brief is complemented by the gardens, which include tiered earthworks, swathes of bulbs, extensive borders and a Henry Moore sculpture. **Address** Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EL. **Tel** 01803 847000, dartington.org

Little Sparta

Scottish poet, philosopher, writer and artist Ian Hamilton Finley moved to Little Sparta, in the Pentland Hills near Edinburgh, in 1967. A garden was developed over the years as Ian collaborated with stonemasons and letter cutters to create permanent 'poem objects', carefully placed so that language is made to inhabit the landscape. **Address** Stonypath, Dunsyre ML11 8NG. littlesparta.org.uk

Charleston

The country home and garden for artists Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, who created a bohemian retreat for themselves and their numerous Bloomsbury Group guests. The garden features mosaics, box hedging, gravel pathways, ponds and quirky sculpture, while the intense use of colour reflects the painting, textiles and decoration in the house. Together, the garden and house convey a sense of characterful creativity and prolific productivity.

Address Firle, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 6LL.
Tel 01323 811626, charleston.org.uk

Sissinghurst

Renowned as a writer and poet, Vita Sackville-West is also highly regarded for the garden she made at Sissinghurst Castle. Created with her husband Harold Nicolson, the garden is considered the embodiment of British gardening tradition. The National Trust is completing a project to conserve all the books in Vita's writing room – including plant catalogues – giving us an insight into her vision for the garden.

Address Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2AB.
Tel 01580 710700, nationaltrust.org.uk

Hill Top Farm

The 17th-century Cumbrian farmhouse is a time-capsule of writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter's life. Potter bought the property in 1909 as an escape from London and the house and garden were to feature regularly in her stories and illustrations. Now owned by the National Trust.

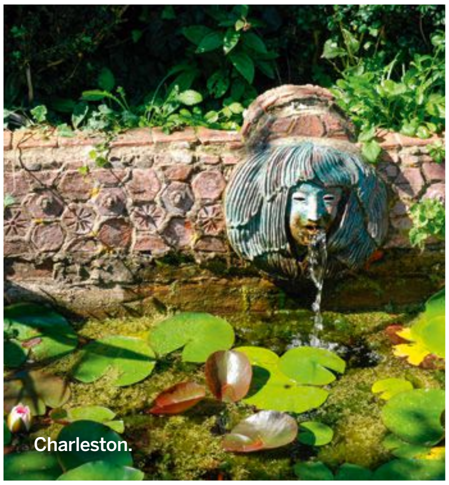
Address Near Sawrey, Hawkshead,
Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0LF.
Tel 015394 36269, nationaltrust.org.uk

POWER AND SYMBOLISM

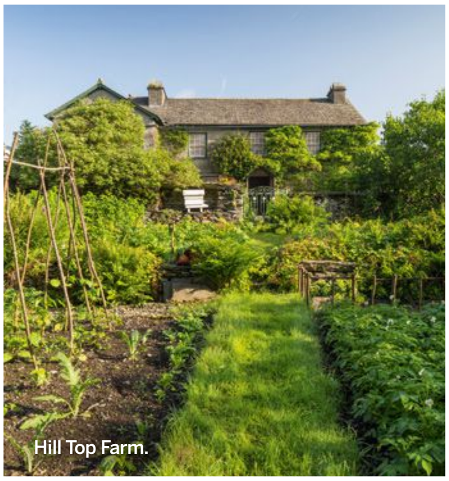
Plaz Metaxu

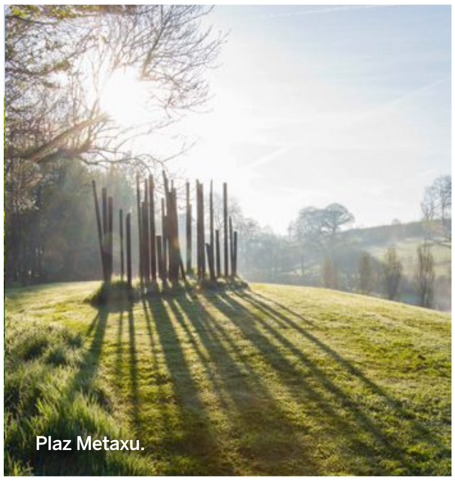
Here is a contemporary garden that continues the 18th-century landscape garden tradition so ably demonstrated at Stowe. Owner Alasdair Forbes has been developing the 32-acre valley site near Tiverton in Devon since 1992 to include references to the music, art, poetry, classical myth and psychology that have inspired his intellectual life. Open by appointment only.

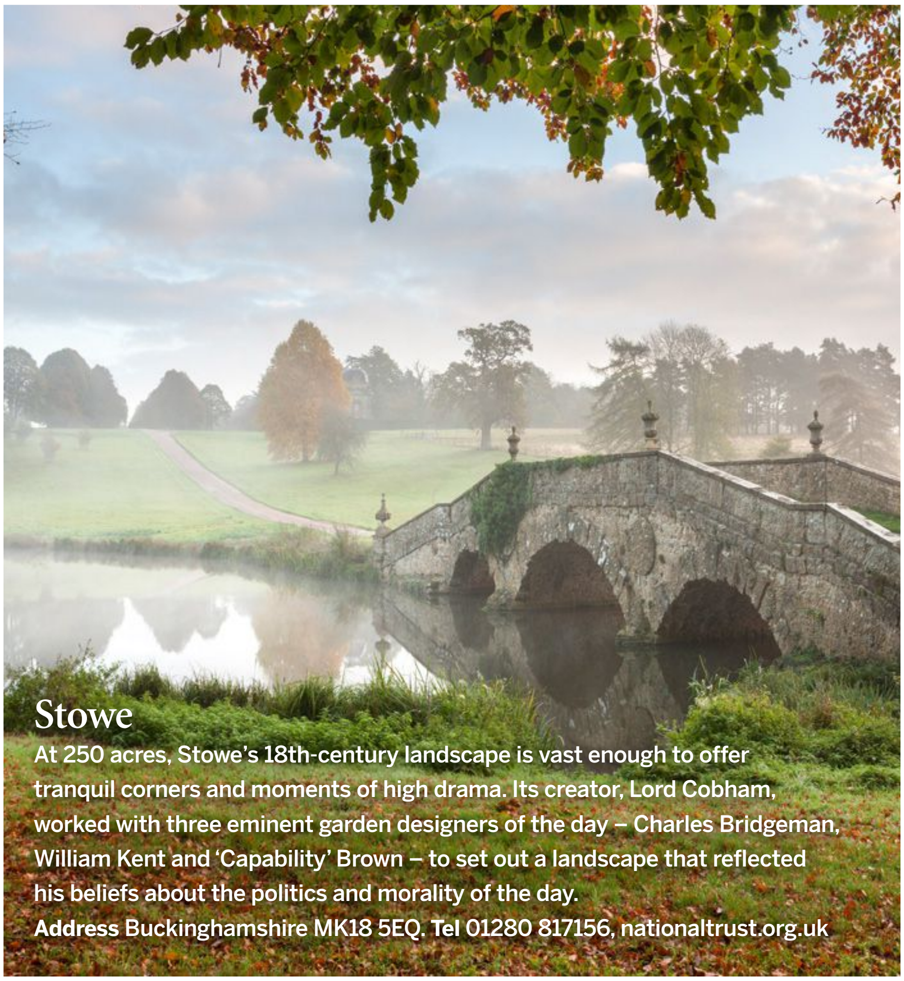
Email arroble@btinternet.com


Charleston.

Sissinghurst.


Hill Top Farm.


Plaz Metaxu.

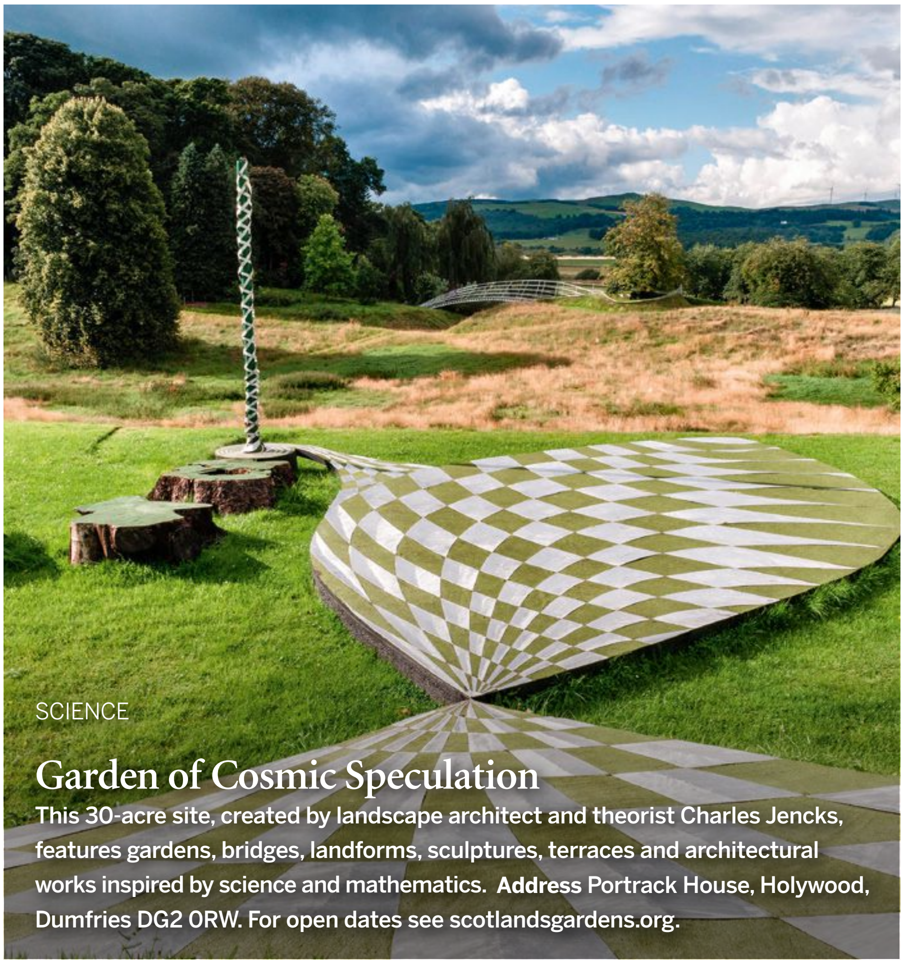


Stowe

At 250 acres, Stowe's 18th-century landscape is vast enough to offer tranquil corners and moments of high drama. Its creator, Lord Cobham, worked with three eminent garden designers of the day – Charles Bridgeman, William Kent and 'Capability' Brown – to set out a landscape that reflected his beliefs about the politics and morality of the day.

Address Buckinghamshire MK18 5EQ. **Tel** 01280 817156, nationaltrust.org.uk

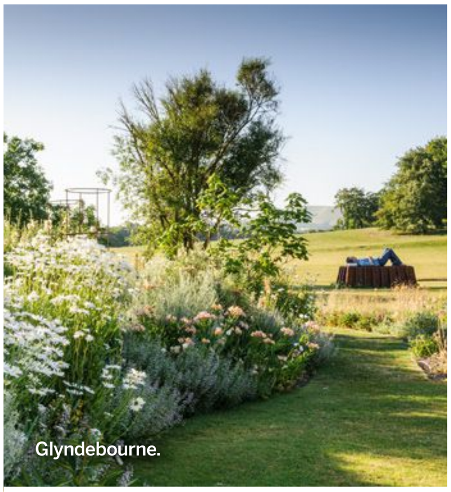
JEAN FRIZELLE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; NATIONAL TRUST / MARIANNE MAJERUS; NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES / JAMES DOBSON; GAP PHOTOS / JO WHITWORTH; NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES / ANDREW BUTLER



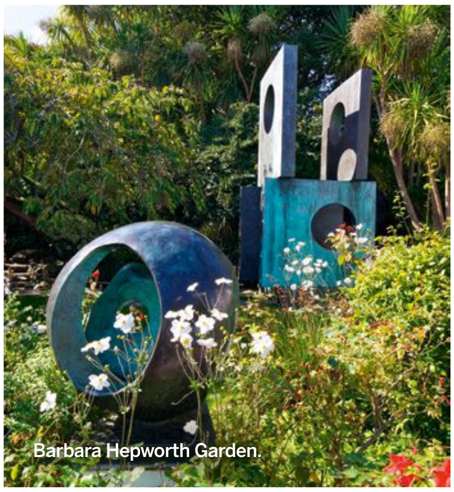
SCIENCE

Garden of Cosmic Speculation

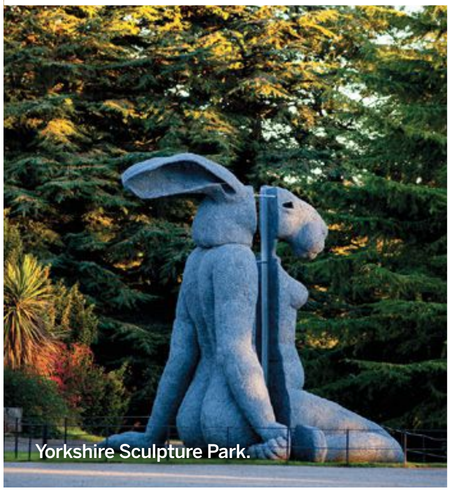
This 30-acre site, created by landscape architect and theorist Charles Jencks, features gardens, bridges, landforms, sculptures, terraces and architectural works inspired by science and mathematics. Address Portrack House, Holywood, Dumfries DG2 0RW. For open dates see scotlandsgardens.org.



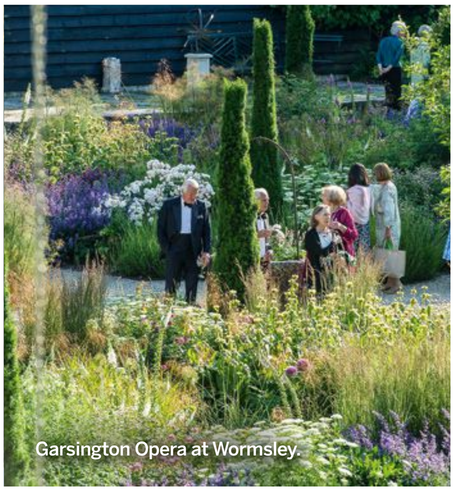
Glyndebourne.



Barbara Hepworth Garden.



Yorkshire Sculpture Park.



Garsington Opera at Wormsley.

GARDENPICS / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; JASON INGRAM; ROBERTHARDING / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; SOPHIE RYDER, SITTING, 2007. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND YSP, PHOTO JONTY WILDE; CLIVE BARDA

MUSIC

Glyndebourne

Considered the definitive garden opera location, Glyndebourne is tucked beneath the Sussex Downs and offers a refined marriage of music, architecture and gardening. Herbaceous borders, a kitchen garden, lake and new rose garden all provide an intimate foreground to sweeping views of the Sussex countryside. Highlights for 2017 include the world premier of a new opera based on *Hamlet*.
Address Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5UU.
Tel 01273 815000, glyndebourne.com

Garsington Opera at Wormsley

The renowned opera season moved to the Wormsley Estate in 2011, where performances are held in a pavilion set within the landscape of the Chiltern Hills. Pre performance, visitors can stroll the Opera Garden flower borders and 18th-century walled garden designed by Penelope Hobhouse.
Address Wormsley Estate, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire HP14 3YG.
Tel 01865 368201, garsingtonopera.org

SCULPTURE

Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden

Tucked beyond the crowded streets of St Ives, Hepworth's compact workshop remains full of tools and unfinished pieces. Step through into the secluded garden where she displayed some of her favourite works. The intimacy of space and careful placement of sculptures ensure the garden's enduring appeal.
Address St Ives, Cornwall TR26 1AD.
Tel 01736 796226, barbarahepworth.org.uk

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

The vast 18th-century Bretton Estate is the perfect setting for large-scale sculpture, many of international importance. Encounter the exhibits close up, or view across carefully designed vistas.
Address West Bretton, Wakefield, Yorkshire WF4 4LG.
Tel 01924 832631, ysp.org.uk

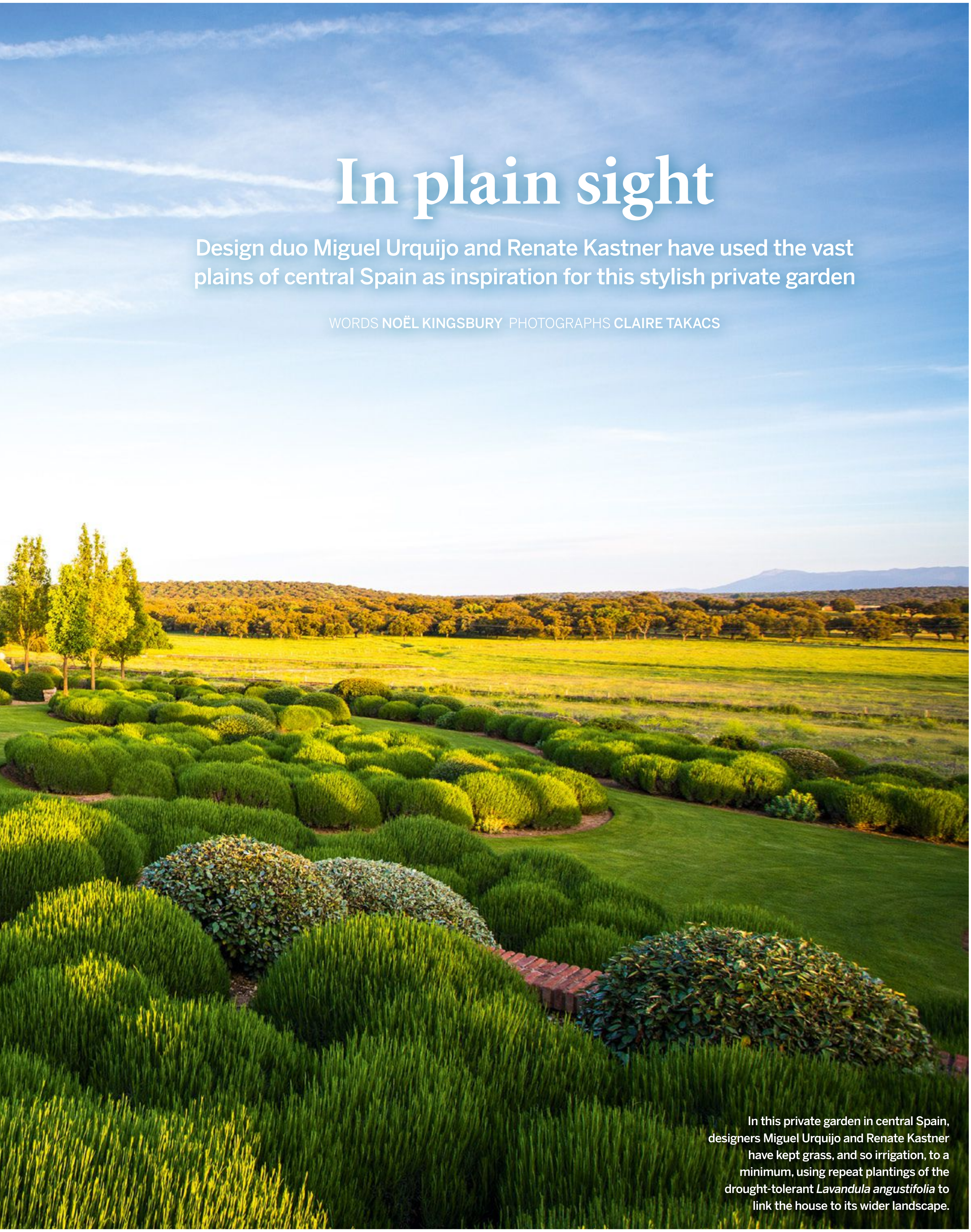
In brief

What Private garden on a country estate.
Where South of Salamanca, Spain.
Size Around 5,000 square metres.
Climate Mediterranean/continental with sharp, overnight frosts in winter and temperatures reaching 40°C in summer.
Soil Imported clay loam.
Hardiness rating USDA 8.

In plain sight

Design duo Miguel Urquijo and Renate Kastner have used the vast plains of central Spain as inspiration for this stylish private garden

WORDS **NOËL KINGSBURY** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLAIRE TAKACS**



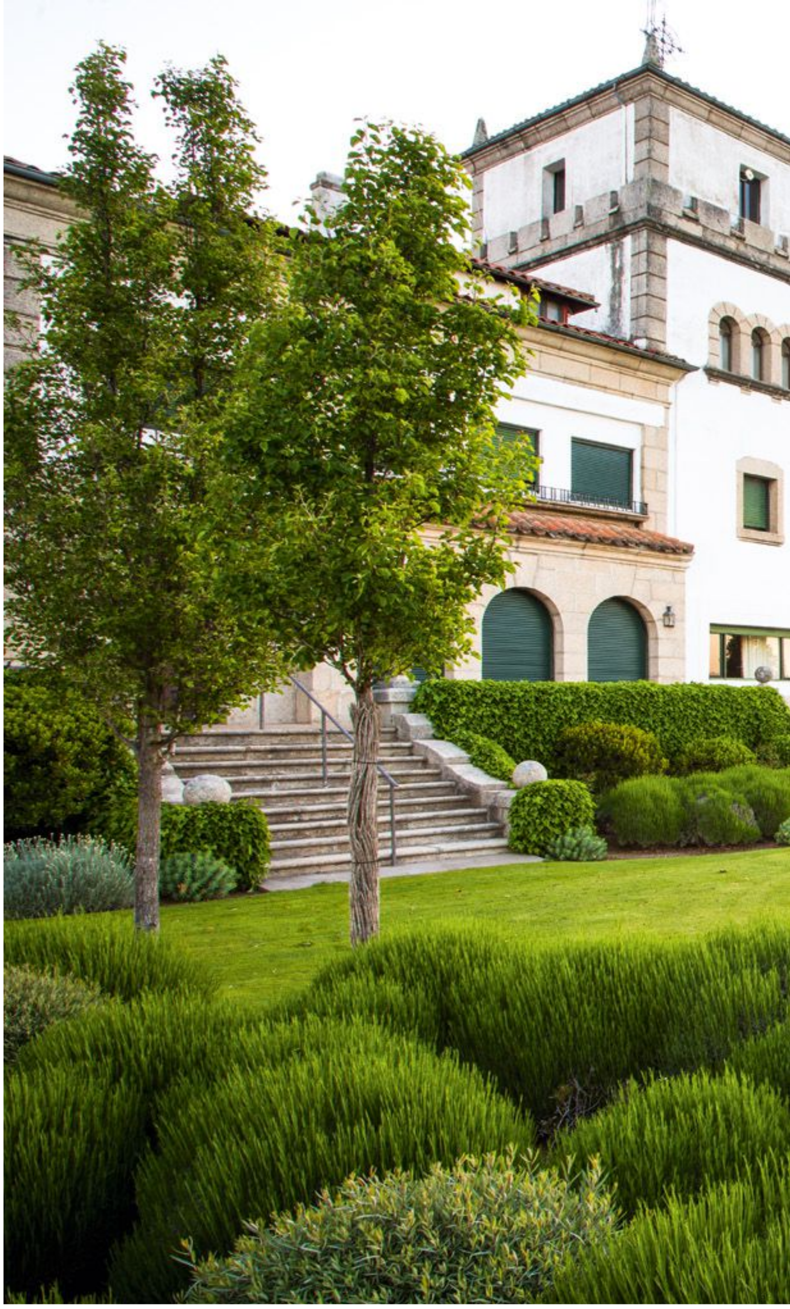
In this private garden in central Spain, designers Miguel Urquijo and Renate Kastner have kept grass, and so irrigation, to a minimum, using repeat plantings of the drought-tolerant *Lavandula angustifolia* to link the house to its wider landscape.

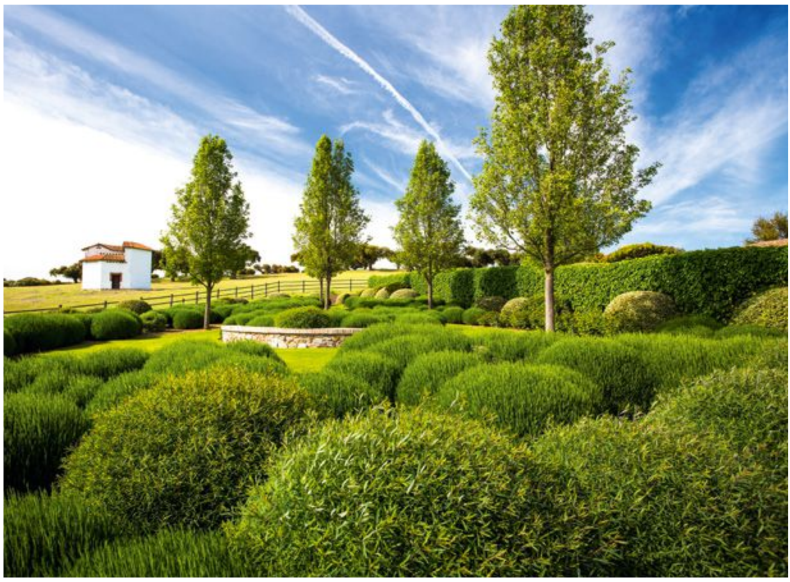
Central Spain is 'big sky' country, where the scale of the landscape tends to render attempts at garden making seem puny by comparison. A high rolling plain, often backed by distant mountains, this is a landscape that every now and again offers truly immense vistas; it has scale that is unlike anything else in Europe, and at times feels more like the American west or central Asia.

It was in this vast landscape that the design partnership of Miguel Urquijo and Renate Kastner faced the challenge of creating a stylish green-looking design for a private garden. "The client wanted grass, rather than gravel," says Miguel, "but we were determined to reduce water use." Miguel also felt an island of green grass would cut the house off from the surrounding countryside. Miguel wanted to achieve the opposite – to link the garden with its landscape.

The duo's answer was to use a very traditional Mediterranean plant, *Lavandula angustifolia*, but in a very non-traditional way. Neat domes of lavender plants fill islands in the grass; multiples of one species set out to echo the landscape. Other drought-tolerant species, such as *Phlomis fruticosa*, *Teucrium fruticans* and the autumn-flowering *Sedum* 'Herbstfreude', also feature in the mix, which reflects the *dehesa*, the name given to the landscape that covers huge areas of central Spain. This is pasture land where pigs, sheep and cattle, including bulls for fighting, are reared. The dominant tree is the evergreen holm oak, *Quercus ilex*; widely spaced, so there is plenty of light for grass beneath.

Although this design is deeply rooted in the Spanish landscape, Miguel fell in love with gardening in England while studying biology at the University of Buckingham in the 1980s. Favourite gardens are ones that make the most of plants but within firm structures, such as those by Tom Stuart-Smith. However, Derek Jarman's minimalistic planting at Prospect Cottage near Dungeness is also a favourite of Miguel's – "It shows what can be done in a harsh environment." Miguel describes himself as "passionate about plants and landscape", but he doesn't think he would have become a garden designer had he not spent those formative years in England. His wife and business partner Renate, with whom he works closely on this and other projects, is also from a northern European tradition having studied landscape design at ▷





Main image

A low, curved hedge of *Lavandula angustifolia* helps to partly hide the sunken pool from view, and ensures swimmers are met with a glorious scent in summer. Low curved walls that echo the stone of the house enclose more plantings of lavender and other evergreen shrubs, including *Salix purpurea* 'Gracilis'.

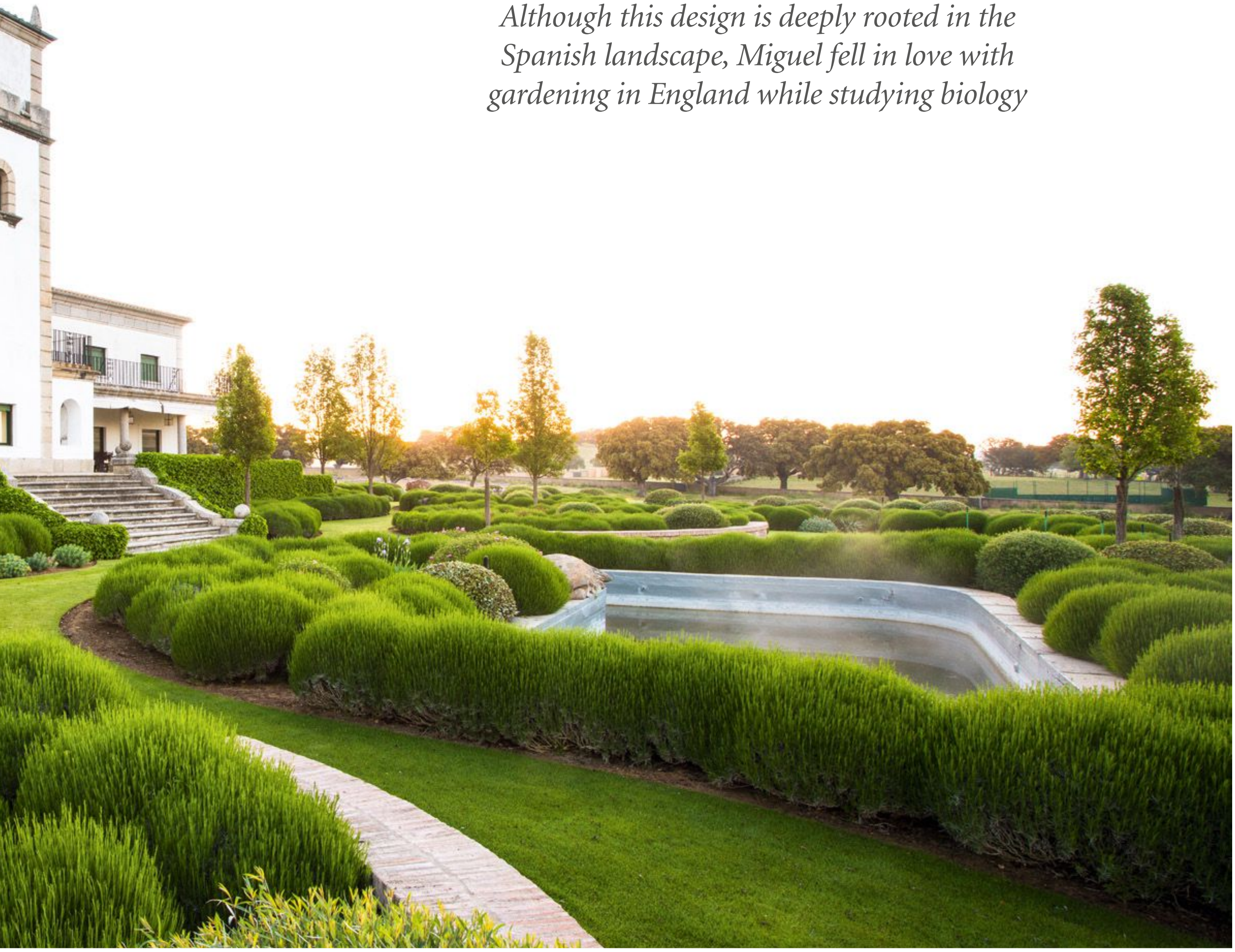
Bottom row left to right

By repeating a limited palette of native shrubs, including *Lavandula angustifolia* and *Salix purpurea* 'Gracilis', Miguel and Renate have given the garden a solid grounding to its location.

The silver-grey foliage of *Teucrium fruticans* stands out among the mass plantings of *Lavandula angustifolia*, while ornamental pear trees, *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer', provide some limited shade from the heat of the sun in summer.

Lilac heads of *Iris* 'Jane Phillips' pop up between plantings of *Lavandula angustifolia, Elaeagnus* x *ebbingei* and *Salix purpurea* 'Gracilis'. These tough shrubs have been clipped to repeat the natural dome of the holm oak, *Quercus ilex*, in the surrounding *dehesa* landscape.

> *Although this design is deeply rooted in the Spanish landscape, Miguel fell in love with gardening in England while studying biology*



▷ Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, the leading teaching institution in horticulture and landscape in her native Germany.

Spain, is decidedly not northern Europe. In much of the country the year is dominated by weather that is either too cold for plant growth, or too hot and dry. Gardens in Spain have inevitably been dominated by evergreens, which give greenery and structure throughout the year. "Spanish gardens have generally been Italianate in style," explains Miguel. "We want to find styles that suit the specific space." In Spain the climate dictates that there will often be an emphasis on using evergreens, but the pair want to open garden owners' eyes to the possibilities using different forms structure and a wider range of plants can offer.

In what is a difficult climate for gardens, the question of irrigation soon arises. "You cannot do without any irrigation," says Miguel, "but the system and the amount of irrigation tend to define the nature of the planting." In this garden, sprinklers were deemed less visually obtrusive than pipe work and drip irrigation at soil level. Miguel took advantage of the circles they describe as the basis for the shapes of the borders and the grass paths. Where once straight lines and right angles would have dominated, now it is curves, sweeps of grass, rounded border edges and the domes of clipped lavender. The angularity that the classical garden used to define itself in opposition to the landscape beyond is now replaced by structure that evokes it and creates a link to it.

Spain is still a very new country for gardening. "Spanish people are not very home-based," suggests Miguel, "preferring to go out to socialise, but this is changing as more people entertain at home, ▷

Main image

Miguel and Renate's idea to use islands of domed lavender ties the garden to the surrounding *dehesa*. Ornamental pear trees, *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer', provide a vertical element that echoes the holm oaks in the field beyond.

Bottom row left to right

A small clump of *Iris* 'Jane Phillips' adds a punch of colour amid plantings of the tough, evergreen shrub *Elaeagnus* x *ebbingei*.

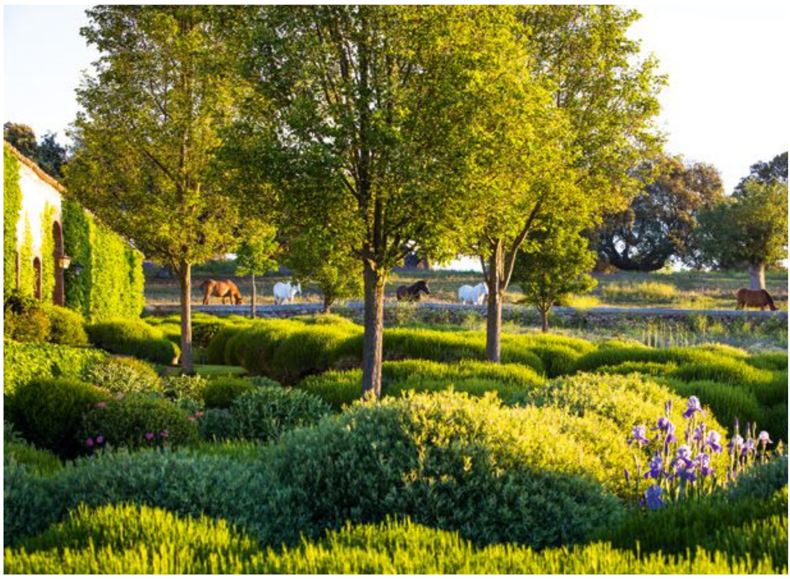
A curved wall on the right of the image, covered in *Hedera helix*, creates variation in height and colour next to smaller clipped *Elaeagnus* x *ebbingei* and *Arbutus unedo*.

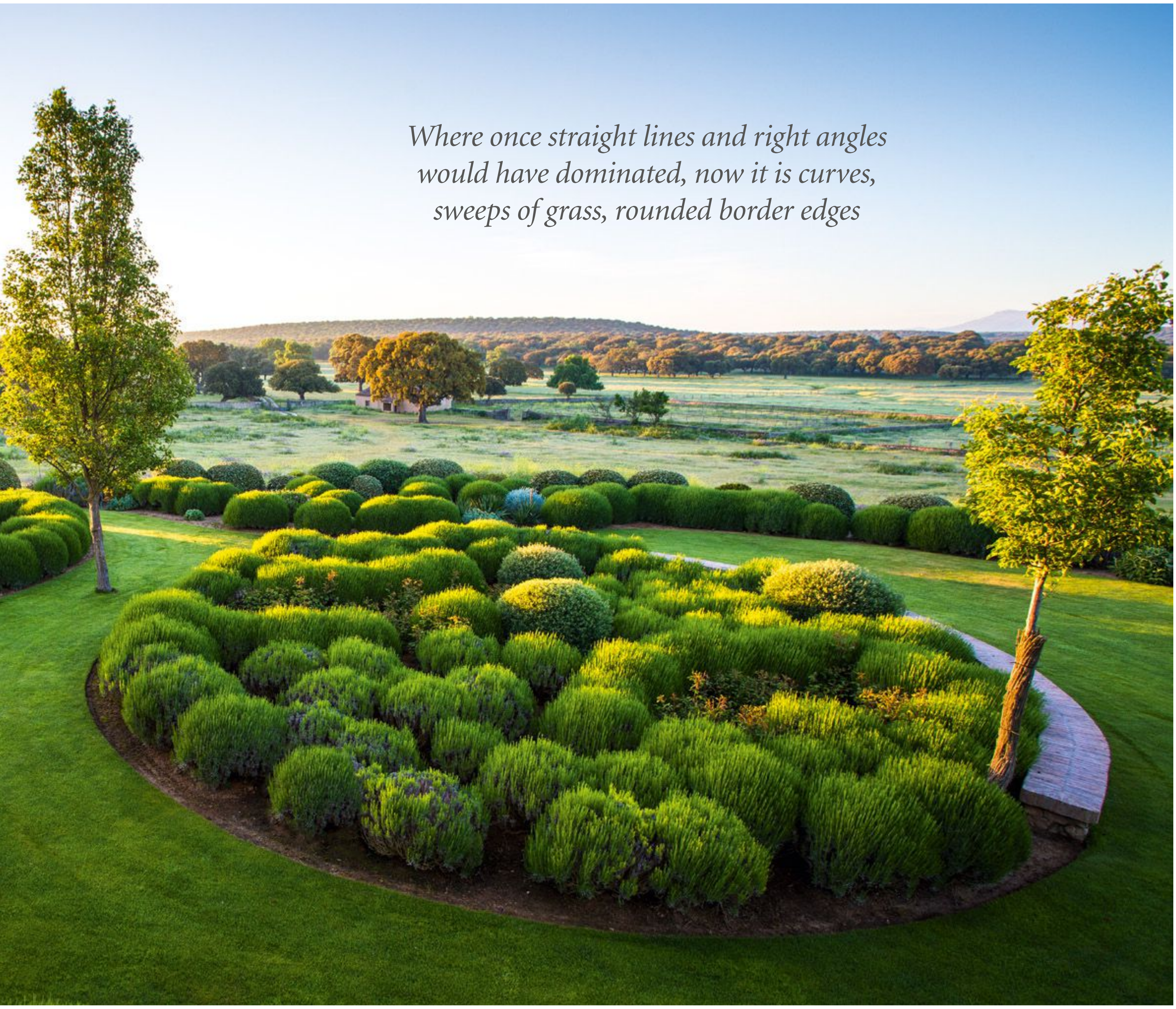
Low plantings of clipped *Lavandula angustifolia* and other tough shrubs form an undulating landscape in front of an ivy-covered part of the house.

Working with the landscape

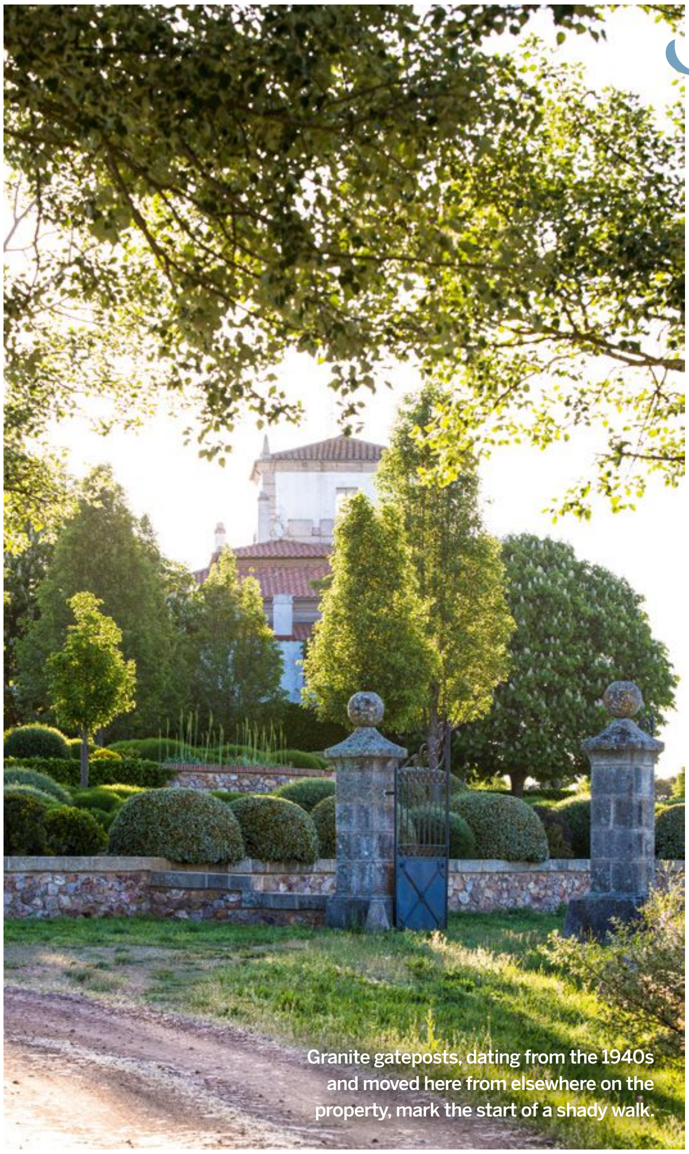
Use key native plants. This is not always practicable or desirable, so sometimes it may be necessary to find species that are smaller or more tractable, but which have shapes and colours that echo key natives. The form and colour of the lavender used in this garden evokes the much larger oaks in the landscape beyond. "I like to go around the area and find appropriate building blocks," says Miguel. "Everything needs to have a sense of belonging to the locality."

Hide or blur boundaries. This garden opens itself out on almost all of its borders. This approach works well where there are no individual features that would benefit from being framed, but in many gardens it pays to vary how defined you make the border. Irregularly located shrubs can help to disguise the line where the garden ends and landscape begins. And don't discount the ha-ha. We tend to think of this as something confined to grand English landscapes, but it's an idea that can work in many environments.





> *Where once straight lines and right angles would have dominated, now it is curves, sweeps of grass, rounded border edges*



Granite gateposts, dating from the 1940s and moved here from elsewhere on the property, mark the start of a shady walk.

> *“Spanish gardens have generally been Italianate in style, want to find styles that suit the space”*

▷ leading to greater domesticity and an interest in private surroundings.” The range of plants is still limited, and often Miguel and Renate have to source plants from the Netherlands or the south of France. But the potential is enormous – Spain has a rich flora, some 8,000 species, over a vast range of habitats. This, along with the country’s famous boldness in artistic innovation, suggests a good future for garden making. ◻

USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Miguel and Renate’s work at urquijokastner.com

READER EVENT Don’t miss author Noël Kingsbury’s talk at the *Gardens Illustrated* Festival. See page 8 or go to **gardensfestival.com**

9 of Renate and Miguel’s key plants

1 *Iris* ‘Jane Phillips’
A very vigorous bearded-type iris that needs sun and well-drained or dry soil. Broad grey-green, sword-shaped leaves give it structure after its brief, early summer glory. 1.2m. AGM*. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b†.

2 *Yucca gloriosa*
A sculptural plant known as the Spanish dagger, with spiky rosette of leaves. It normally grows to 1m tall and 1m across, but the flower spike can grow to 2m, or sometimes more, after several years of growth. Needs full sun, but will thrive in any well-drained soil, including poor stony ones. 2m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 6a-10b.

3 *Lavandula angustifolia*
Familiar low shrub, with highly aromatic evergreen foliage and purple, midsummer flowers. Needs full sun and well-drained soil. Will spread to around 80cm but prune after flowering to keep compact. 60cm. USDA 5a-8b.

4 *Helichrysum italicum*
Brush against the intensely silvery foliage of this evergreen shrub, with yellow flowers, and you’ll be hit by a strong scent of curry powder. Needs full sun and good drainage. 60cm. RHS H4, USDA 8b-11.

5 *Cistus* x *purpureus*
Gloriously free-flowering in early summer, this forms a compact shrub with a spread and height of 1m. Ideal for full sun and poor, dry soil, it is short-lived in wetter climates. 1m. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 8b-10b.

6 *Euphorbia rigida*
A spring-flowering shrub that also offers good-looking foliage for the rest of the summer. Although low growing, it spreads to around 1m. Likes sun and well-drained soil. 40cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 7a-10a.

7 *Hedera helix*
The familiar, common ivy makes a first-rate evergreen, self-clinging climber for walls, although it needs annual pruning to keep it under control. Happy in any well-drained soil in sun or shade. 25m. RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b.

8 *Arbutus unedo*
A favourite plant of Miguel’s. Evergreen with cinnamon-coloured bark, it can be kept lightly clipped, otherwise it forms a graceful tree. Needs sun and good drainage. 9m. RHS H5, USDA 7b-9b.

9 *Elaeagnus* x *ebbingei*
A tough, evergreen shrub, often used for hedging. The small, white flowers, which are borne in autumn, have a sweet drifting fragrance. Happy in any reasonable soil in sun. 4m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 7a-10b.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

James Corner

Although better known in his adopted city of New York than on this side of the Atlantic, this Lancashire-born landscape architect is taking the design of public spaces to new heights

WORDS **TIM RICHARDSON** PORTRAIT **CHARLIE HOPKINSON**

He ought to be the most famous landscape architect in the world, as the man chiefly responsible for the key landscape intervention of the last half-century at least: the High Line, the linear park sited on a disused railway on Manhattan's Lower West Side (Piet Oudolf was responsible for the planting, not the landscape design). But James Corner is no publicity seeker and his name is little known on this side of the Atlantic. It transpires he is also a little shy of personal questions. As a result, for the first 20 minutes of our interview, over breakfast at his London hotel, I can't get a word in edgeways.

Dictating the agenda can be a useful way of hiding in plain sight, of course and, like others who have re-invented themselves transatlantically, Corner at first seems especially reluctant to talk about his British background.

We know that he trained in Manchester and immediately moved to the USA because the economic situation at the time meant that "not a lot was happening in Britain". He worked first in academia and published several influential books in the emerging field of landscape urbanism, before Field Operations, his 'boutique practice' in New York, hit big with the High Line [it was one of half a dozen or so high profile companies invited to tender for the project], which opened in 2009. Since then his company has secured major commissions including Freshkills Park, the huge landscape project built on a former landfill site on New York's Staten Island, and elements of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in east London. On top of this, Corner continues as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, where he has headed the Landscape Architecture Department since 2000.

It transpires that Corner's father was a headmaster, but when I allude to the possibility of an inherited didacticism, Corner tells me that this is firmly, definitely, absolutely not the case. He was brought up in the Lancarshire village of Fulwood just outside Preston and went to a local state school, gaining four As at A Level. Rather than go down the Oxbridge route, he applied to Manchester Polytechnic to read landscape architecture, a perhaps unlikely decision apparently made on the strength of a careers-room questionnaire.

So why landscape? "Where we lived there were woods and fields. I spent a lot of time there," he says. Nevertheless it was the scientific element that first attracted him to landscape. "At the time I thought it was going to be more of a technical profession, like landscape management. But when I got to Manchester the first thing we had to do was build a cube and then do something with it conceptually. That completely horrified me at first – but it let me understand, finally, how ideas and constructs in your head that are verbal can become physical."

He talks fondly of the vibrant Manchester scene of the 1980s and his oscillation between city life and walking trips to the Lake District or the Dales. But he does not appear to miss Britain, which he says remains "too over-reliant on government", preferring to see landscape itself as a potential catalyst for economic regeneration.

"The High Line only happened because [Michael] Bloomberg [New York Mayor, 2002-2013] wanted to unleash the potential of the whole West Side," he offers. "He brought in transit – the subway – and re-zoned the area so developers could build higher on the avenues. But first he invested in the High Line. He had been told by the planners that developers want to build in a district with an identity, an aura to it. It's interesting that the public space came first. It was exactly the same with the Olympic Park in London."

Corner believes that public-space design can drive the regeneration of not just areas but entire cities – places, such as Cleveland, Ohio, a so-called 'rust-belt' city where his firm is working now. "Professionals can work anywhere now and cities are competing like hell to retain people and attract new residents, especially the 20 to 35-year-olds who are working in tech, media and creative professions. One ingredient that attracts them to a city is a well-designed public realm: public space which is useful, green and hip."

Corner talks of the cultural vibrancy of London but is not convinced by the proposed Garden Bridge, sometimes touted as London's version of the High Line. It's not the familiar objections that bother him; his main worry is founded upon a suspicion that the bridge is unnecessary. He dubs it "a good idea in the wrong place".

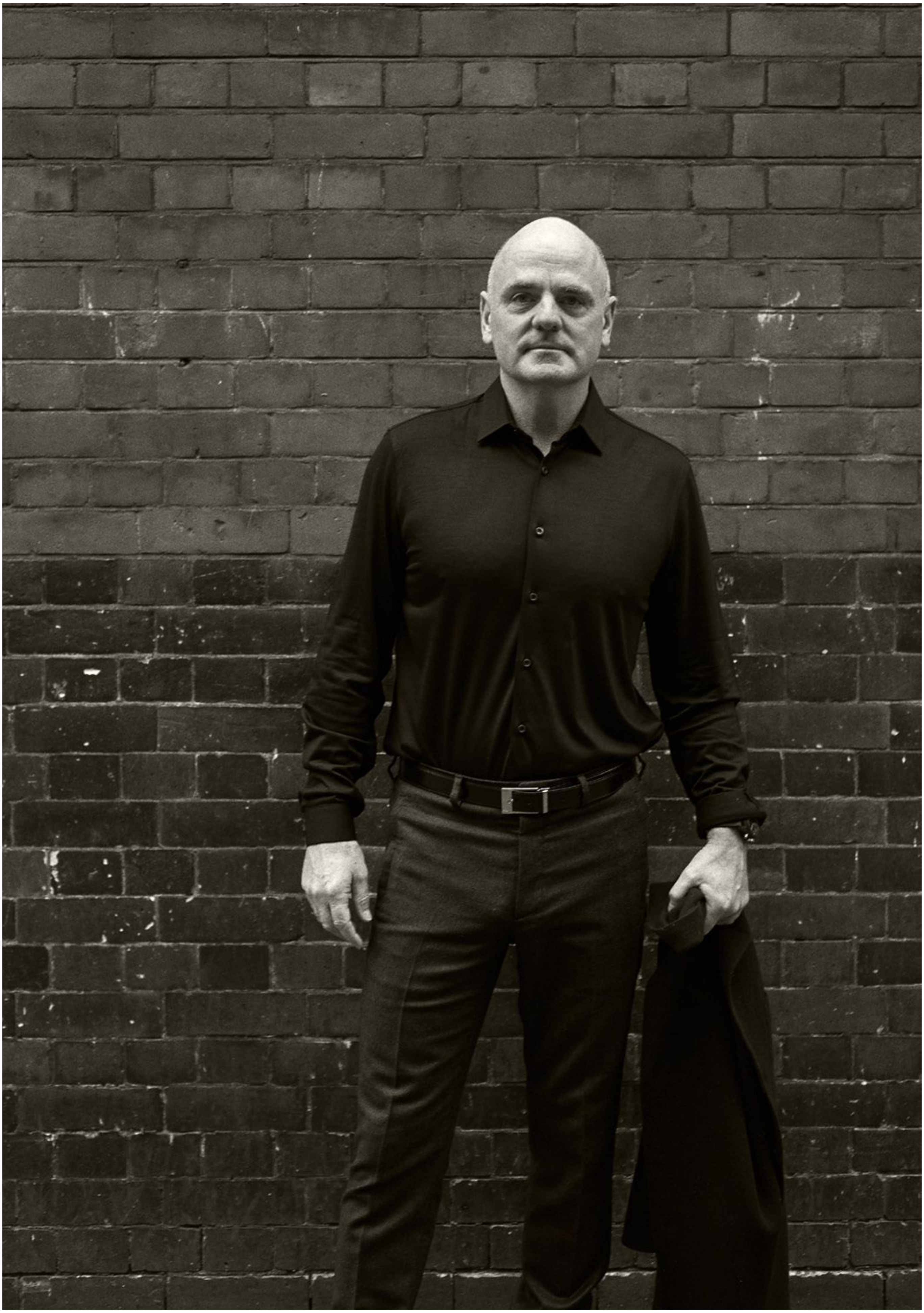
By the end of our interview Corner has relaxed considerably and we are having a normal conversation – he even tells me about his home in the countryside near Philadelphia. "We have five acres of land, and it's a bit of a project. We are restoring the meadows and the woodland edge. It's a slow process. It makes you realise how difficult landscape really is!" And with that he stalks out of the hotel – out into the public realm. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

James Corner Field Operations, 475 10th avenue, New York, NY
10018, USA. Tel +1 212 433 1450, fieldoperations.net

NEXT MONTH Snowdrop expert Joe Sharman.

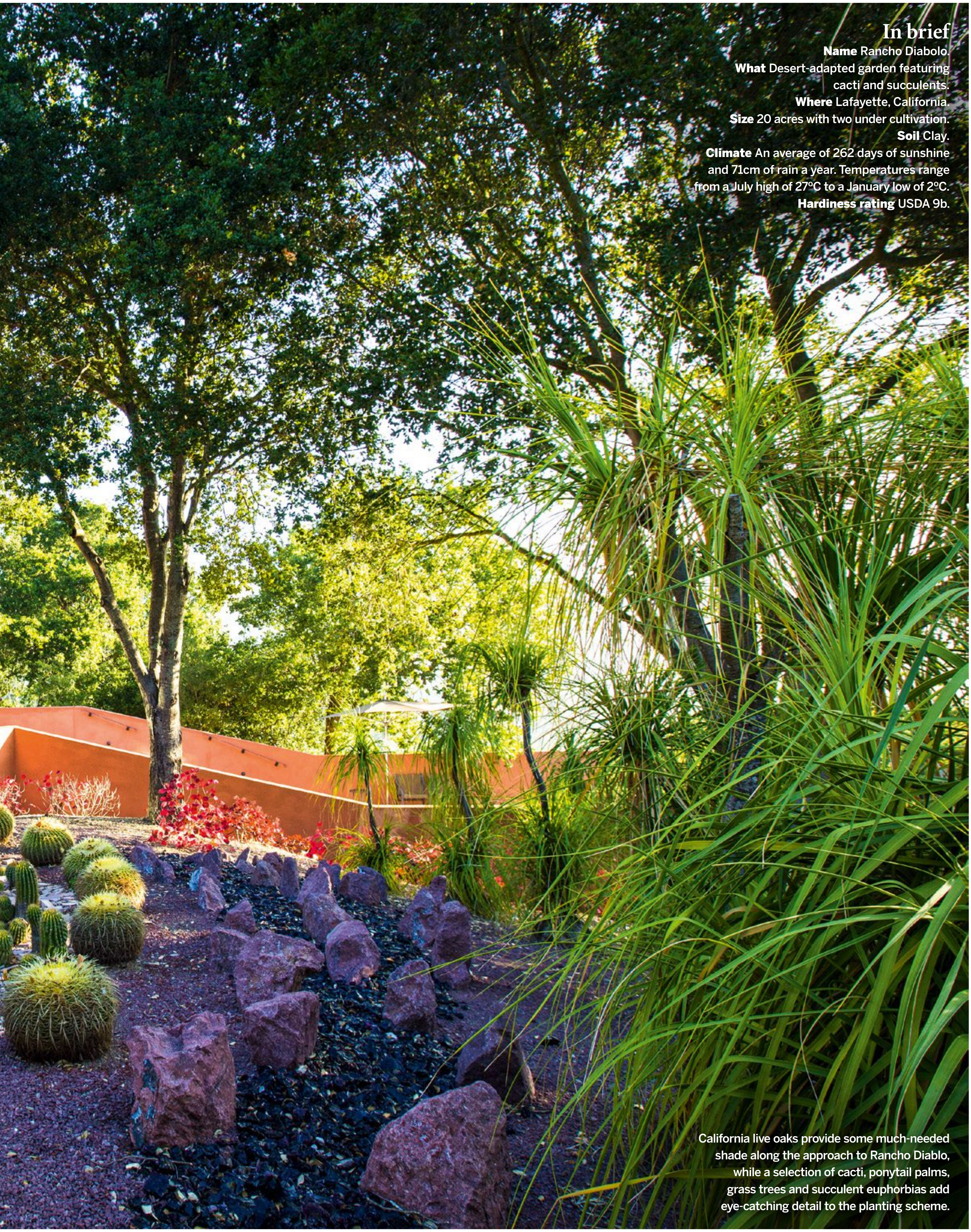
"One ingredient that attracts professionals to a city is a well-designed public realm: public space that is useful, green and hip"



Devil in the detail

In their hot and dry Californian garden, the owners of Rancho Diablo have used desert-adapted plants to create a fiendishly clever design

WORDS **CHRISTOPHER WOODS** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLAIRE TAKACS**



In brief

Name Rancho Diabolo.
What Desert-adapted garden featuring cacti and succulents.
Where Lafayette, California.
Size 20 acres with two under cultivation.
Soil Clay.
Climate An average of 262 days of sunshine and 71cm of rain a year. Temperatures range from a July high of 27ºC to a January low of 2ºC.
Hardiness rating USDA 9b.

California live oaks provide some much-needed shade along the approach to Rancho Diablo, while a selection of cacti, ponytail palms, grass trees and succulent euphorbias add eye-catching detail to the planting scheme.

Rancho Diablo looks east and south towards Mount Diablo, a 1,173m mountain consisting of ophiolite, basalt, serpentine and chert. It is a geologist's dream. Because of the dense and often thorny mountain chaparral, Spanish colonists named it Monte del Diablo or Devil's thicket. Misinterpreted by English speakers, it became Devil's Mountain.

In the greater San Francisco Bay Area, with the Pacific Ocean to the west and a hot, dry valley to the east, what plants you can grow, and how you grow them, is largely dictated by the climate. Rancho Diablo lies a few miles east of the Berkeley and Oakland Hills, an uplift created by the Hayward Fault. The Hills, running north to south, keep cool, fog-laden summer air trapped on the ocean side, whereas to the east, it is hot and dry – often several degrees hotter. The Rancho sits high on a hill, the soil is a dense clay that turns brick hard in dry weather and gelatinous when it rains. It doesn't rain very much.

California has been experiencing a substantial to severe drought since 2007. No one in their right mind would create a garden with such bad soil and with no rain. Fortunately, the creators of Rancho Diablo, Margaret Majua, Lucia Howard and David Weingarten are out of their minds and into their garden. They are devilishly clever.

Lucia and David are architects. Their company, Ace Architects, is one of the most innovative and creative in the San Francisco Bay Area and that's saying a lot. They designed the house and the framework of the garden. Margaret is the plant person.

"We bought the property, then a week later the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake happened and half the house fell over," says Margaret. "We put it back together, expanded it and made a beautiful house. We then started to create the garden. We planted many cactus and succulents. Then the 1990, 100-year freeze hit and half the plants turned to mush. So we did what all good and obsessive gardeners do, we started over."

The garden slopes away from the house and consists of two main areas. The first, ostensibly a collection of cactus and succulents, rolls away from the back porch, down ▷

1 Steps leading down from the house are bordered by a jumble of different species of cacti and succulents, including *Yucca rostrata*, several agave species and paddles of prickly pear. As the garden slopes away from the house, these steps offer a view of the descending layers that showcase the subtlety, colour and texture of the garden's tough and spiky flora.

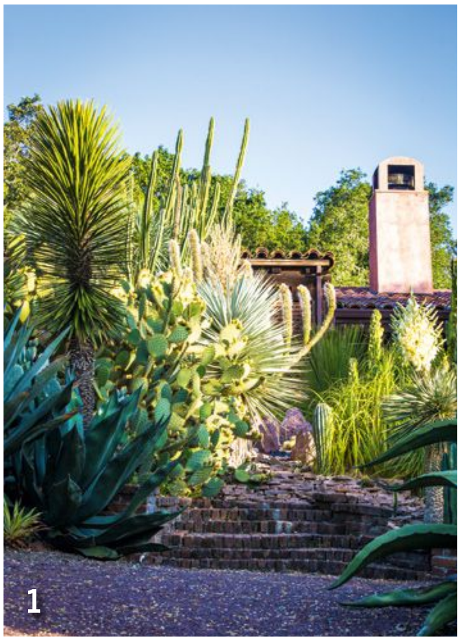
2 One of *Five Symbolic Figures* by Leo Lentelli, which were rescued from the old San Francisco Public Library after it was ravaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The blue *Agave americana* behind is equally statuesque.

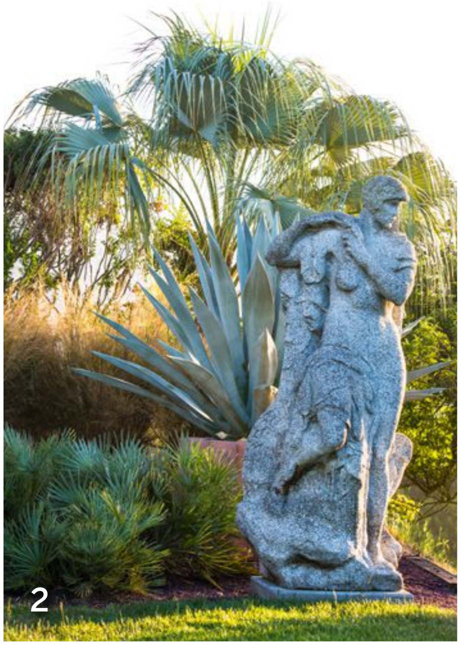
3 In a dry garden, shape is often more important than colour. A round ball of the Mexican grass tree (*Dasylirion longissimum*) provides an interesting contrast to the tall columnar cacti and small globes of barrel cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*). A tall and bushy tree-like *Yucca rostrata* helps to balance the two shapes.

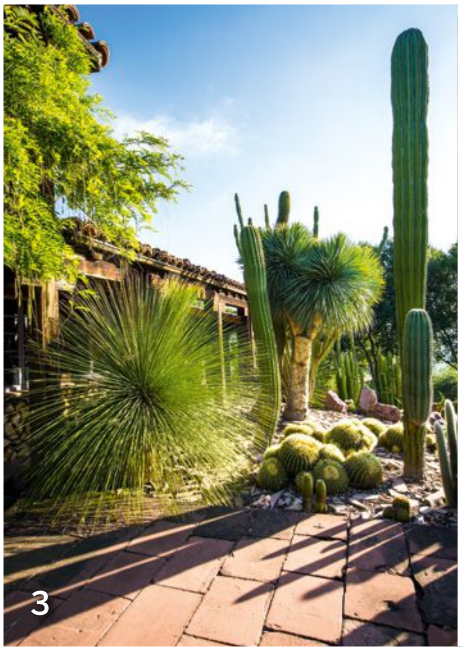
4 An archway of *Phoenix roebelenii*, underplanted with *Chamaerops humilis* frames an elliptical garden that hosts the rescued statues, *Five Symbolic Figures* by Leo Lentelli. This lawn, the most open part of the garden, affords a great view of Mount Diablo.

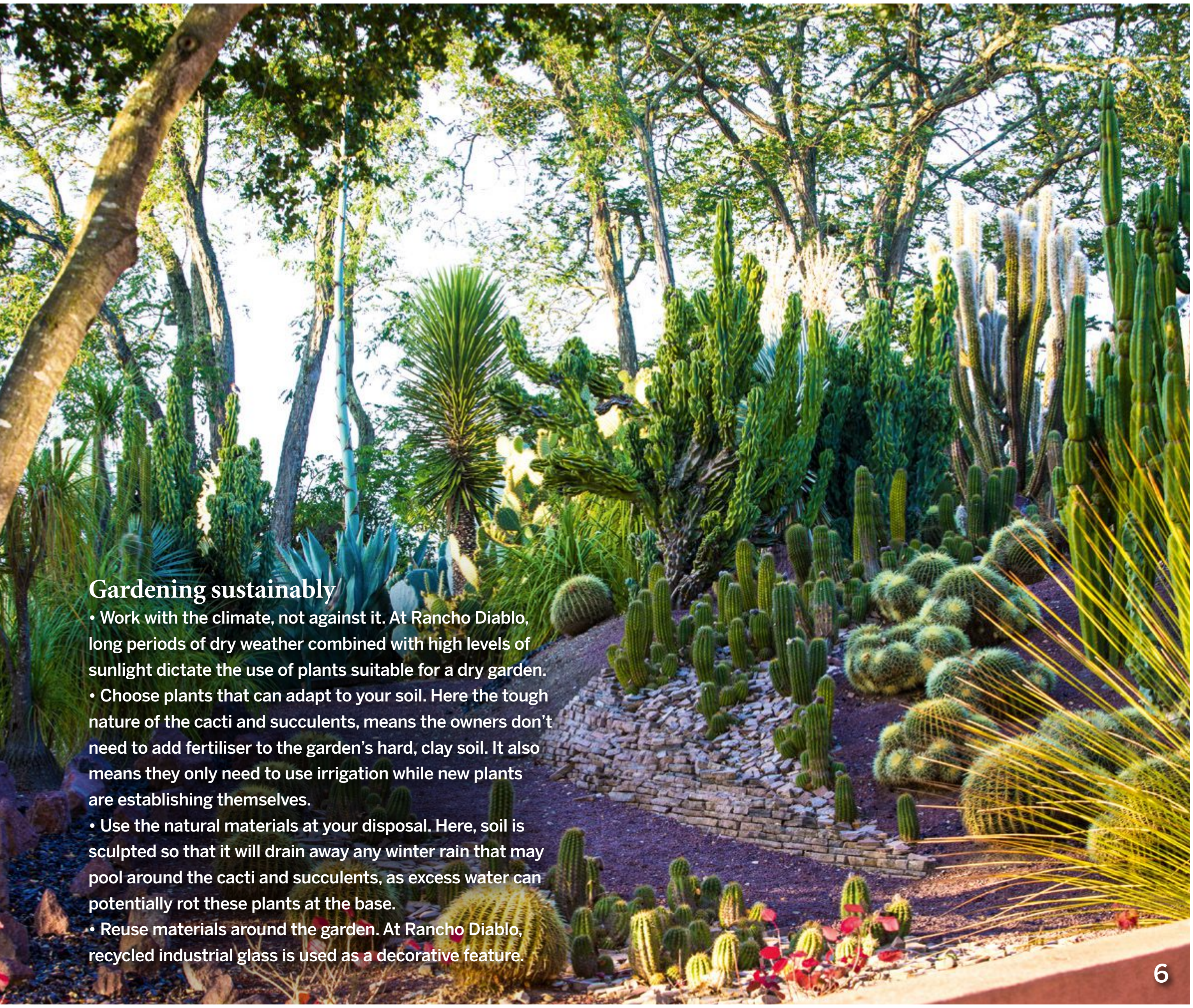
5 An underplanting of *Cotinus* 'Grace' adds a splash of red beneath the California live oaks that line the swimming pool terrace, providing welcome shade. The water jets help to cool body and mind on a hot day.

6 A purple gravel path divides a diversity of dry-adapted plants. With little rain, gravel and stone mulch stay in place, and add the necessary visual and physical unification in a highly contrasting and diversified planting.


1


2


3



Gardening sustainably

- Work with the climate, not against it. At Rancho Diablo, long periods of dry weather combined with high levels of sunlight dictate the use of plants suitable for a dry garden.
- Choose plants that can adapt to your soil. Here the tough nature of the cacti and succulents, means the owners don't need to add fertiliser to the garden's hard, clay soil. It also means they only need to use irrigation while new plants are establishing themselves.
- Use the natural materials at your disposal. Here, soil is sculpted so that it will drain away any winter rain that may pool around the cacti and succulents, as excess water can potentially rot these plants at the base.
- Reuse materials around the garden. At Rancho Diablo, recycled industrial glass is used as a decorative feature.

6

4

5

1

2

3

4

7

6

5

▷ towards a very elegant swimming pool – this is California, after all – partly shaded by a California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). The main body of the garden, however, is not shaded and occupies a steep and sunny slope. This is where the desert-adapted plants grow best. There are many of them closely planted in a vortex, a spiral that winds out to trails that lead to the rest of the garden offering a fabulous view of the mountain.

Being architects, the owners have used strong shapes to create a powerful and energetic space. Tall columns of *Euphorbia* species, organ-pipe cactus (*Stenocereus thurberi)* and the Peruvian apple cactus (*Cereus repandus*) provide the thrusting elevation while globes of golden barrel cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii)*, paddles of prickly pear and the soft green leaves and arching flower spikes of *Agave attenuata* balance the erect columns with a globular lusciousness.

Grassy-looking desert plants – the Mexican grass tree (*Dasylirion longissimum*), and the Australian grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*) – add to the horticultural architecture, while mature specimens of *Yucca rostrata* look like trees from another planet as they thrust their way out of the hill. All this is bonded together with a mulch of soft-purple gravel with occasional splatterings of purple-black glass. Staggering down the hill, past a planting of pistachios, plums and pears, is a more formal garden – hosting five statues by Leo Lentelli – with an entrance bordered by the blue form of Mediterranean dwarf palm (*Chamaerops humilis*).

Margaret is modest about one of the garden's simplest yet most effective plantings. "I was given a clump of aloe, I am not sure which species. I dumped it at the back of the garden as I didn't know what to do with it. It rooted and started to grow. Then I took cuttings and put them in pots, then I just took cuttings and plopped them in the ground. Now we have an aloe hedge that blazes with fiery-red flowers in January and February. It is a fiendishly floral foreground to the view of Mount Diablo." □

1 Shaded from the morning sun by California live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*), the terraced swimming pool – an essential part of California living – looks out on to a superb view of the mist-covered Mount Diablo beyond.

2 This striking, bluish-green *Echinopsis peruvianus*, or Peruvian torch cactus, is a native of the western slope of the Andes in Peru. This one has grown to more than three metres in height, and occasionally, it produces large, white flowers.

3 The owners planted ten of these small *Agave* 'Blue Glow' more than a decade ago and, because they looked so beautiful in both full sun and part shade and needed no water, they added another ten this year.

4 A row of wonderfully droopy ponytail palms (*Beaucarnea recurvata*), an evergreen member of the asparagus family, create a soft contrast to the strong and stiff forms of the golden barrel cactus *Echinocactus grusonii*.

5 The tree-like cactus *Cereus repandus*, also known as the Peruvian apple cactus, blooms with white flowers at night and also produces edible, sweet fruits. Its undulating ribs can vary in colour from grey-green to blue.

6 The corner border that marks the entrance to the main cactus garden is dominated by large, blue-grey *Yucca rostrata*, which blooms annually, and is underplanted with a variety of prickly pear cacti. A blue form of the Mediterranean dwarf palm, *Chamaerops humilis*, creates a natural screen for the garden, tempting you to move on and explore more.

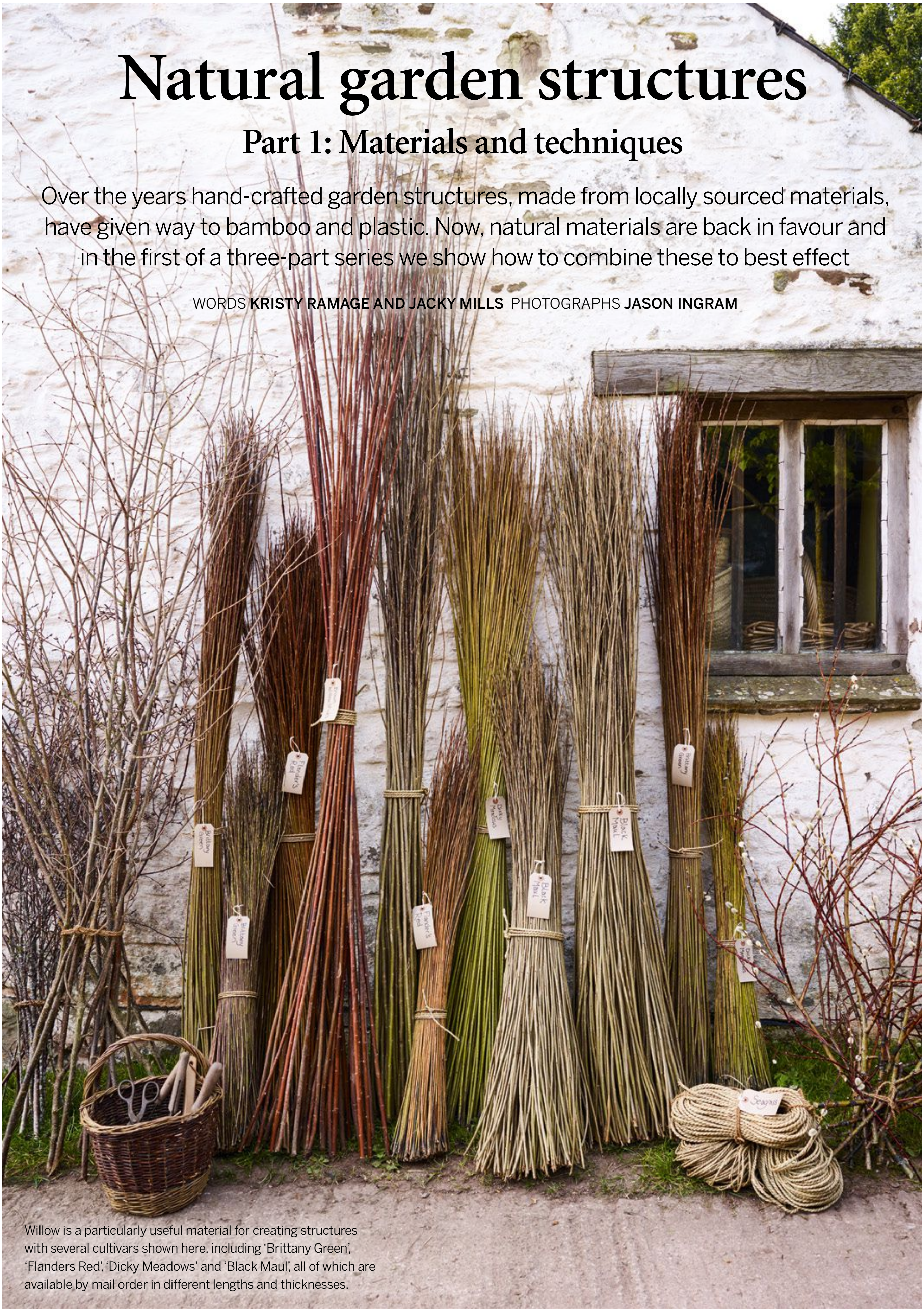
7 With its long, blue-grey fronds that can reach 1.5m long, *Agave americana* is a dramatic architectural plant that is very popular in this part of California.

Natural garden structures

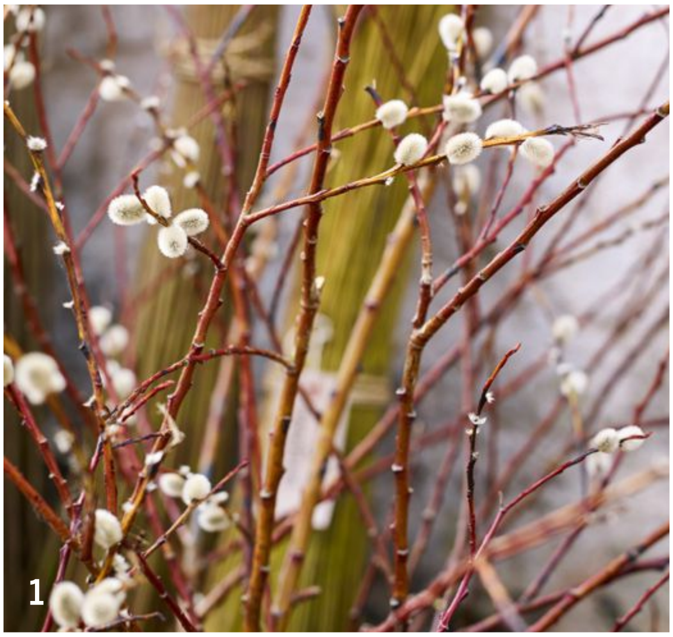
Part 1: Materials and techniques

Over the years hand-crafted garden structures, made from locally sourced materials, have given way to bamboo and plastic. Now, natural materials are back in favour and in the first of a three-part series we show how to combine these to best effect

WORDS **KRISTY RAMAGE AND JACKY MILLS** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**



Willow is a particularly useful material for creating structures with several cultivars shown here, including 'Brittany Green', 'Flanders Red', 'Dicky Meadows' and 'Black Maul', all of which are available by mail order in different lengths and thicknesses.



Black Maul
4

Materials for making structures

Coppicing – periodically cutting a tree or shrub back to ground level – is an ancient woodland management practice that generates a great deal of fast-growing, sustainable timber. Woods such as willow **(1)**, hazel, chestnut, beech and dogwood respond well to this treatment producing an abundance of straight, young growth that is ideal for making garden structures. Cut in the leafless days between November and March when the sap is down, the harvested stems – known as rods and withies – will stay flexible for many weeks if kept in a protected place, such as the base of a hedge.

The looser 'brush wood' from the top of the rods **(2)** can simply be pushed into the ground as pea-sticks to make light-weight structures through which tendril-forming plants will love to scramble. Twiggy hedge cuttings, including beech or branched pussy willow, or even vines such as clematis and honeysuckle, are invaluable for their ability to knit together to make wreaths **(3)** or loosely woven screens.

If you don't have your own trees, or the time to forage, then you can buy many of these products from coppicing suppliers. Willow is widely grown commercially, primarily for making baskets, and can be bought directly from the growers in bundles graded by size. *Salix triandra* 'Black Maul' **(4)** is very popular, or you can grow your own choice from cuttings taken in February. Fresh willow, also known as 'green willow', will remain pliable for up to six weeks. After this time it starts to dry out and will need a period of soaking and mellowing before you use it. Brown willow is dried willow with its bark intact. In some areas, you'll also find hazel and chestnut poles on sale, which are suitable for hurdles and larger structures.

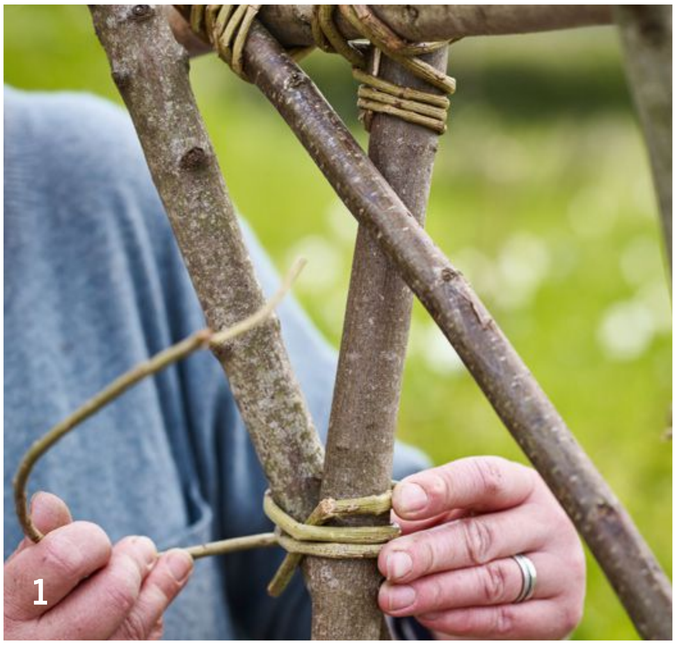
Tied structures

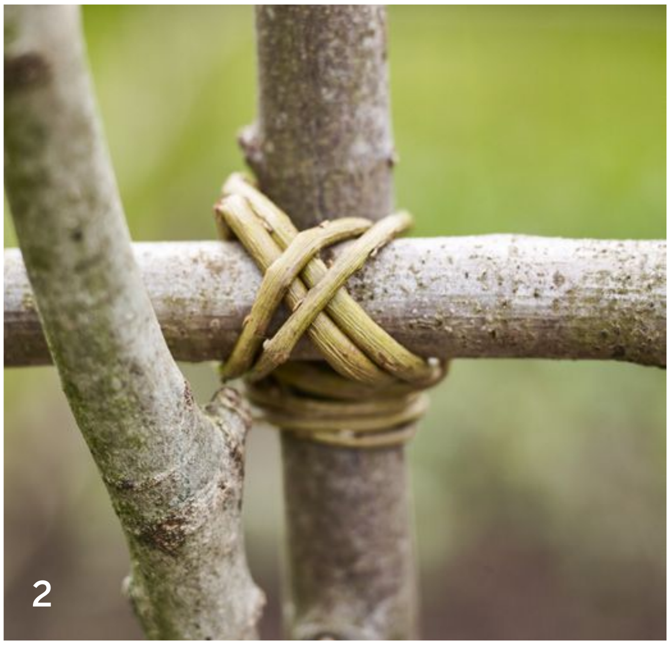
There's something magical about tying structures with willow. Watch willow growers use a withy (tough, flexible stem of cut willow) to make their traditional 'rose' tie and you'd swear there was wizardry involved. Even the simplest withy tie seems miraculously to stay put and have more strength and beauty than a string tie.

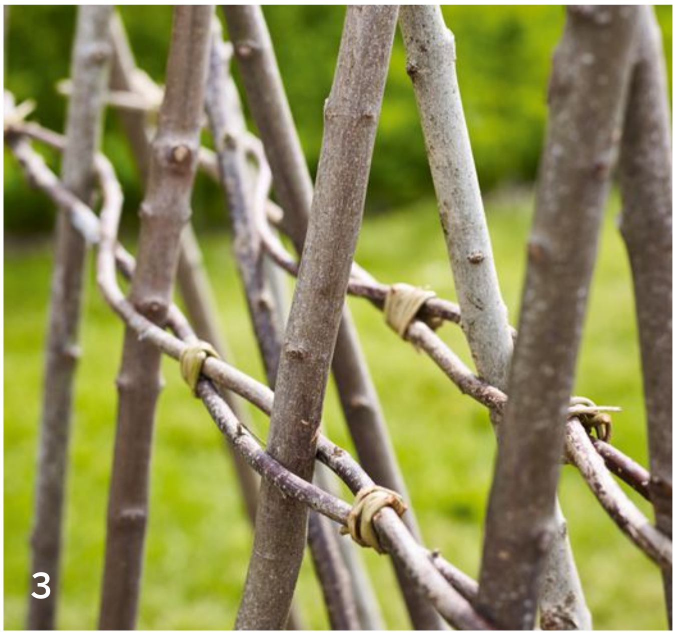
Bean pole support

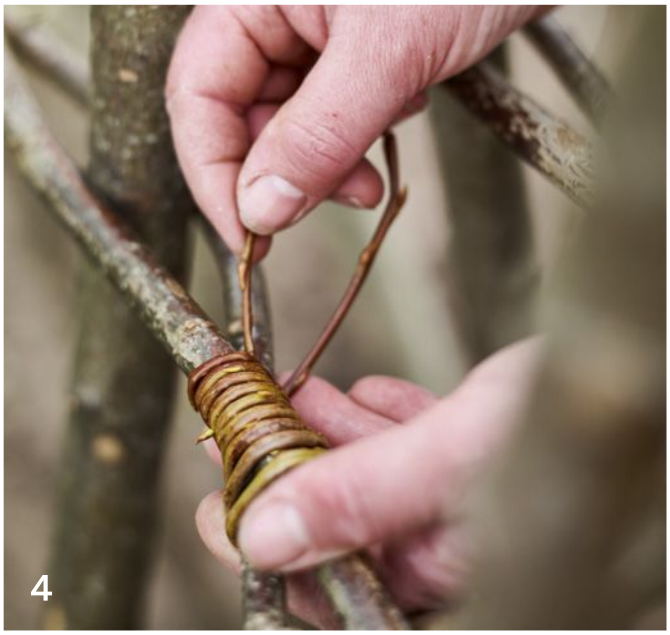
To bind two diagonally or perpendicular crossing hazel poles together use a short slim withy about 60cm in length. Place the thick, butt end of the withy against one pole and wind its length tightly around the junction of poles a couple of times to securely trap this end **(1)**. Continue winding in a figure of eight motion to form a cross **(2)**. Finish up by threading the tip through the back of the woven cross and pulling firmly to tighten and 'lock' the tie. A simple pairing weave of two hazel rods can be used to add support to the upright bean poles **(3)** and will need multiple spiral ties along their lengths to keep them in place. These withy ties are started in the same way, then just wrapped around and around the joint, before threading the tip back through the tie and pulling to tighten as before **(4)**.

Even with a humble bean pole structure, you can build something that suits the style of your garden. It will be visible for a good proportion of its life, until the growth of the beans takes over, so ask yourself what kind of structure you would prefer – a neat affair with finer hazel rods and intricately woven willow, or a wilder looking structure, with twisted poles and protruding ends? Here we selected long, straight, hazel bean poles to produce a simple, repetitive and geometric structure.


1


2

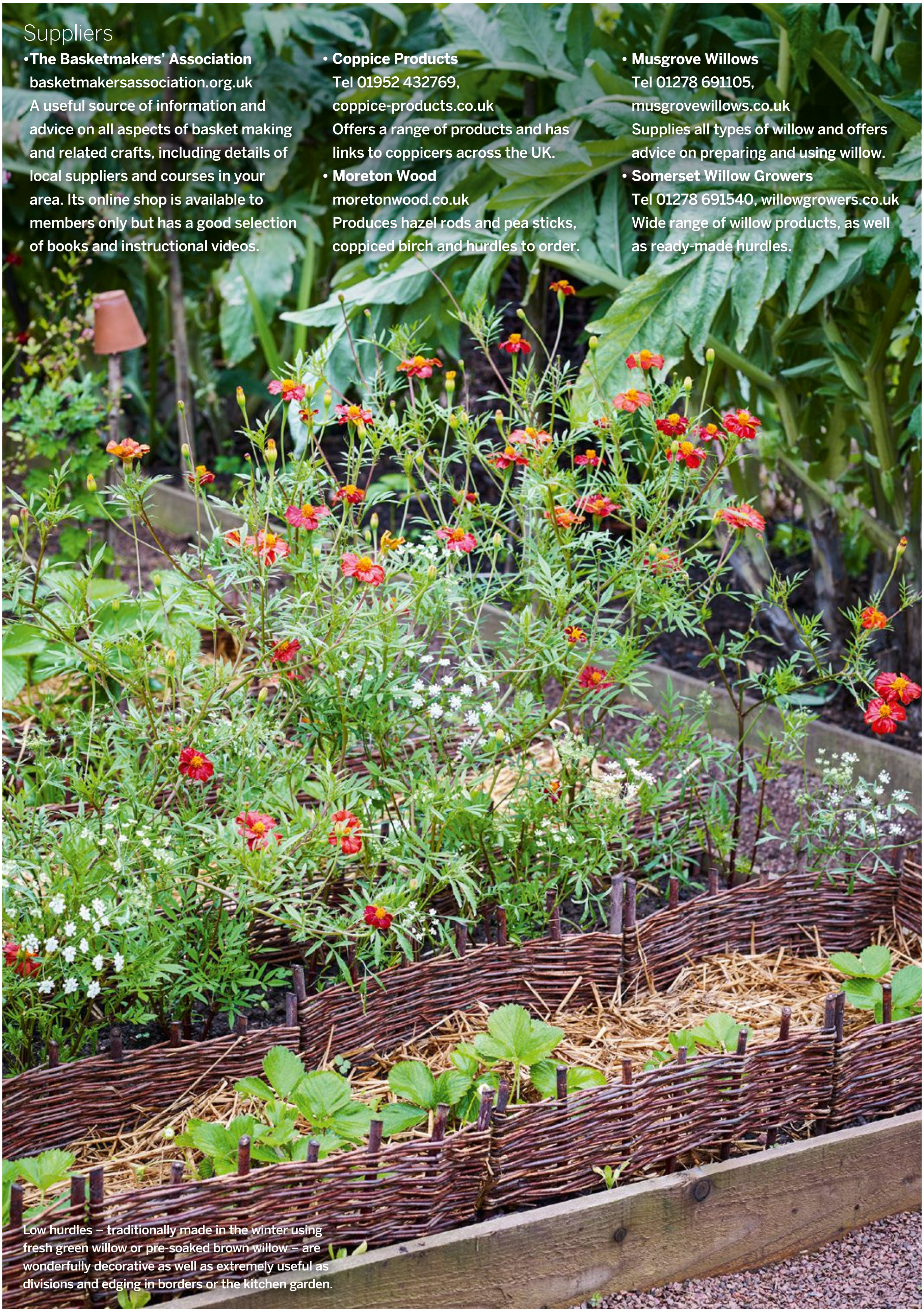

3


4

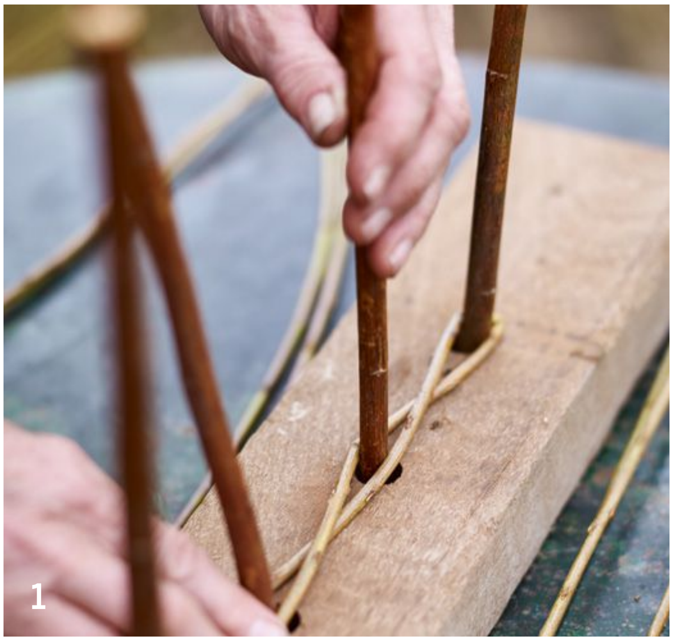
Structures made from native, natural materials can add a huge amount of character to the garden. Come summer, this hazel bean pole structure will be covered by a vigorous crop of climbing beans.

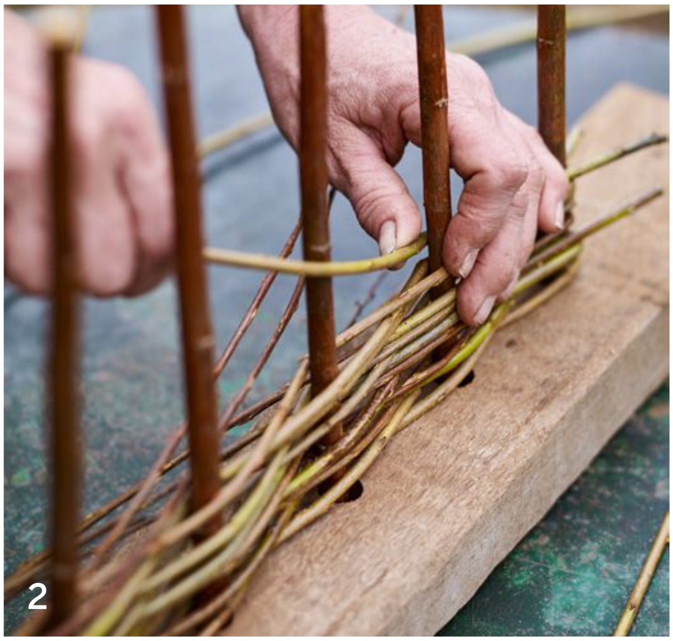
Suppliers

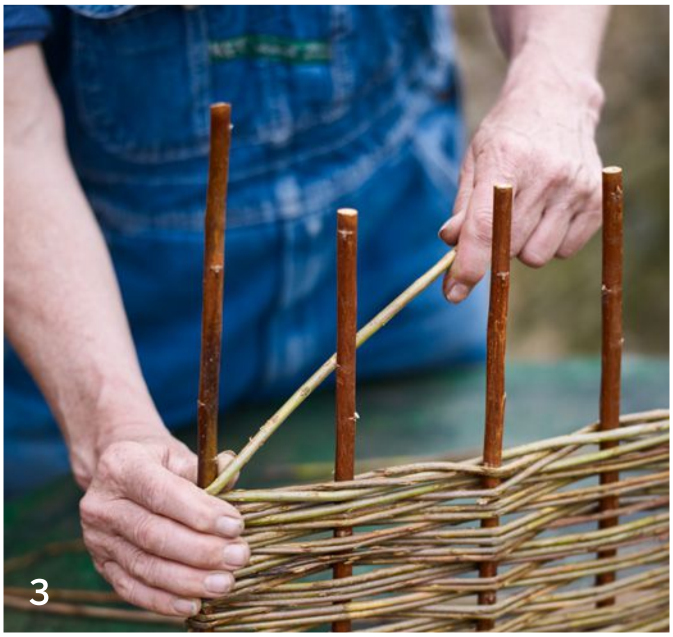
- **The Basketmakers' Association**
  basketmakersassociation.org.uk
  A useful source of information and advice on all aspects of basket making and related crafts, including details of local suppliers and courses in your area. Its online shop is available to members only but has a good selection of books and instructional videos.
- **Coppice Products**
  Tel 01952 432769,
  coppice-products.co.uk
  Offers a range of products and has links to coppicers across the UK.
- **Moreton Wood**
  moretonwood.co.uk
  Produces hazel rods and pea sticks, coppiced birch and hurdles to order.
- **Musgrove Willows**
  Tel 01278 691105,
  musgrovewillows.co.uk
  Supplies all types of willow and offers advice on preparing and using willow.
- **Somerset Willow Growers**
  Tel 01278 691540, willowgrowers.co.uk
  Wide range of willow products, as well as ready-made hurdles.

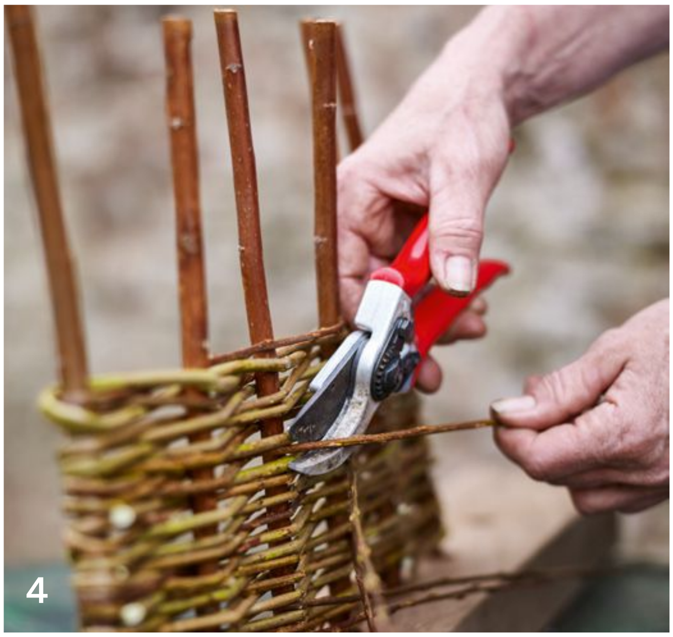


Low hurdles – traditionally made in the winter using fresh green willow or pre-soaked brown willow – are wonderfully decorative as well as extremely useful as divisions and edging in borders or the kitchen garden.


1


2


3


4

Hurdle making

One of the most traditional structural forms seen in the garden is the woven hurdle used for fencing, most commonly made of split chestnut, hazel or willow. It's a skilled job to make full-sized hurdles, but these shorter willow panels are far more achievable.

Woven willow hurdles

First decide on the length of the finished panel and make a jig out of a block of wood by drilling equally spaced holes, roughly 10-15cm apart, to hold the upright stakes. These can be made of hazel and should be thicker than your weaving rods, especially the end two. If you use willow be careful that it's not freshly cut, because it will root into the ground and start to sprout. Next, select your 'weavers', which should be double the length of the finished hurdle. We used four slightly thicker rods for the first and last two rows at the top and bottom of the hurdle and 12 finer rods in between. Bend a thicker rod in half and loop it over an end stake, weaving it back through the stakes crossing over itself between each upright **(1)**. Repeat the process from the other end. Follow this by using the thinner rods, always starting with the butt end, weaving them one at a time, through the stakes in a simple in-out weave along the length of the panel, curving around the end stake and back again. Continue weaving the remaining thinner rods, alternating the starting sides and ends to prevent the panel from warping in one direction **(2)**. Keep the stakes upright; the end two in particular will tend to draw in, so flare them outwards to start with. Finish with two thicker rods to create a border at the top, tucking the end butt into the weave below to secure **(3)**. Trim sides **(4)** and lift stakes and panel out of the jig.

NEXT MONTH Basic plant supports and plant protection.

LEARN TO BECOME A GARDEN DESIGNER

At the **London College of Garden Design** our aim is to provide **world-class, inspirational garden design training.** Our one year **Garden Design Diploma** was created to enable students to learn from the very best in the profession.

Our students have consistently won the **Society of Garden Designers**' prestigious **'Student of the Year Award'** competition and recent graduates have won medals at RHS Shows.

We now also offer an intensive 6 month **Planting Design Course** delivered by some of the **UK's leading planting design specialists** including Nigel Dunnett, Jo Thompson, James Basson and Rosy Hardy.

With classes at the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** and short courses at **RHS Garden Wisley** and other venues you can be sure to get **inspirational teaching from world-class designers** in the heart of London.

LONDON
COLLEGE
OF GARDEN
DESIGN

CONTACT US
+44 (0)1483 762955
info@lcgd.org.uk

lcgd.org.uk

OXFORD PLANTERS
The finest in British outdoor joinery

Designers and manufacturers of
hardwood planters and garden furnishings
www.oxfordplanters.co.uk
info@oxfordplanters.co.uk
01608 683022

Supports4Plants

OBELISKS WITH BIRD FEEDER RANGE

We have a range of sturdy, steel Plant Supports made in UK, easy to dismantle, store, delivered to your door.

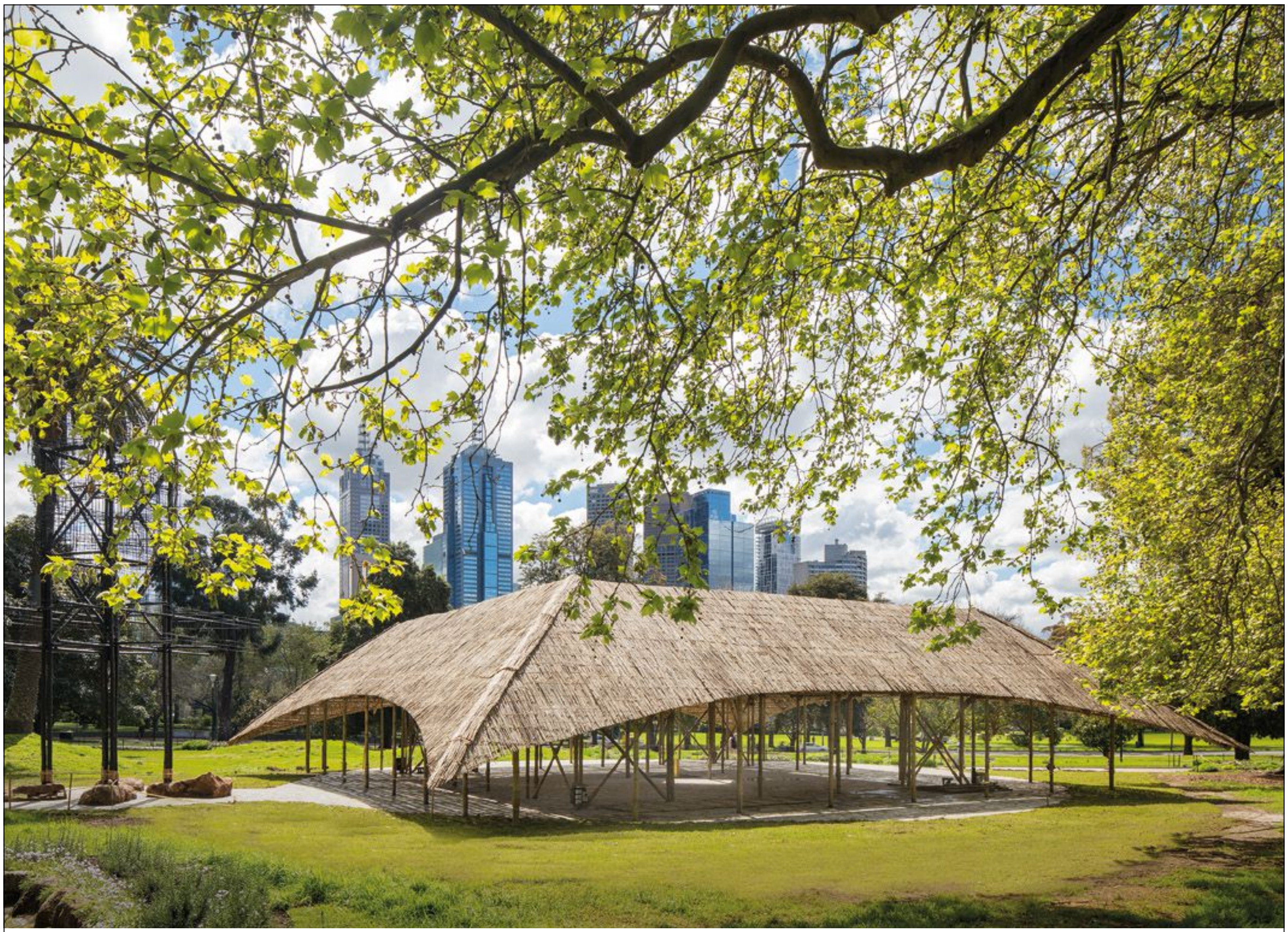
01983 527 760

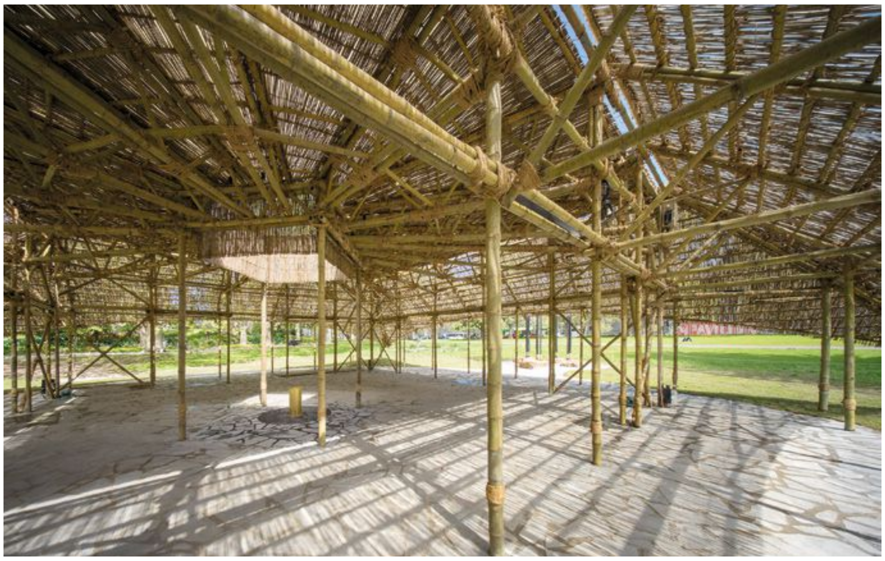
www.supports4plants.com

design

Design update, ideas and sourcebook

UPDATE COMPILED BY **ANNIE GATTI**





JOHN GOLLINGS

EXHIBITION SPACE

Mumbai in Melbourne

Architecture practice Studio Mumbai's founder Bijoy Jain has designed this structure, chosen as Melbourne's MPavilion 2016, to host talks, workshops, performances and installations until 18 February. This handmade temporary structure in Queen Victoria Gardens showcases Indian techniques and materials. Made with 7km of bamboo stems, 50 tonnes of stone and 26km of rope, it is pinned together with 5,000 wooden pegs. An opening in the roof sits above a golden well that collects the falling rain, symbolising the significance of water in the community. **mpavilion.org**

ITALIAN GARDEN HOLIDAYS

Small group tours with guided visits of Italian gardens

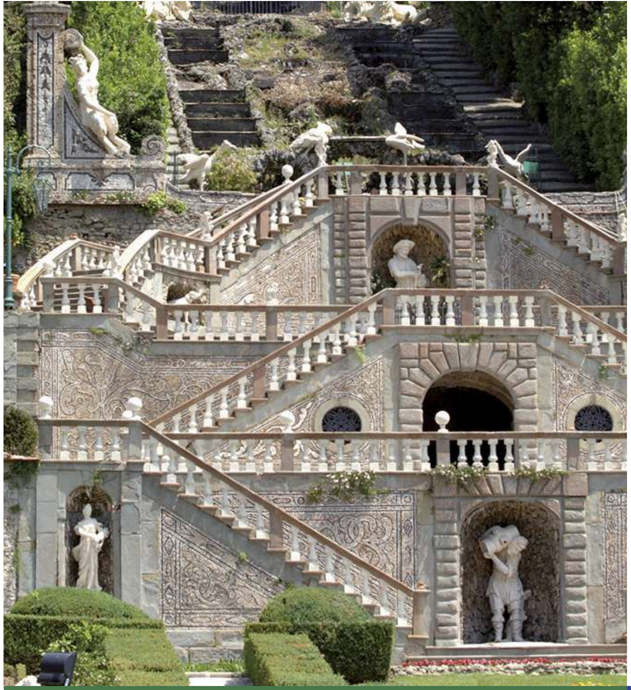
TUSCANY
Visits to: Poggio Torselli, Villa Vignamaggio, Villa Geggiano, Villa Grabau, Villa Reale
2017: 4 June, 25 June, 10 September
From £2,350 per person

LAKES COMO AND MAGGIORE
Visits to: Villa Babbianello, Villa Carlotta, Villa Monastero, Isola Bella, Isola Madre
2017: 9 May, 23 May, 6 Jun, 27 Jun, 5 Sep
From £2,290 per person

AMALFI COAST, CAPRI AND ISCHIA
Visits to: Villa Rufolo, Caserta, Villa San Michele Axel Munthe, La Mortella
2017: 4 May, 18 May, 8 June, 14 Sep
From £2,280 per person

ENVIRONS OF ROME
Visits to: Villa d'Este, Bomarzo, Villa Lante, Giardino di Ninfa, Landriana
2017: 10 May, 17 May, 7 Jun, 6 Sep
From £2,250 per person

VENETO
Visits to: Villa Barbarigo, Villa Emo, Villa Pisani, Giardino Giusti, Villa Rizzardi
2017: 7 Jun, 6 Sep
From £2,240 per person



- Travel by luxury small coach
- Maximum 14 per tour
- Local guides and guided garden visits included
- Extensions to each tour and can be arranged for individuals
- Stay at 4 and 5 star hotels, two per tour, 3 nights in each
- British Airways flights included

SPEAK TO OUR EXPERTS
01392 441275

THE ART OF INTELLIGENT TRAVEL ORGANISING
FOUNDED 1989

AITO IATA ABTOT ABTA The Travel Association

www.expressionsholidays.co.uk

Expressions

Follow Cornwall's Spring Story for the Magnolia season

The moment Cornish Magnolias flower, spring has arrived in England

The Nare is considered by many to be Cornwall's most comfortable hotel and is the ideal location from which to visit Cornwall's Great Gardens, particularly in February /March when the early Magnolias are in full bloom. The Nare founded the Cornwall Spring Story to show that spring really does come to Cornwall first. Last year the arrival of spring was announced on 12th February. When will it be this year? Follow the progress of the magnificent Magnolia campbellii on Twitter @Gr8Gardens or at www.narehotel.co.uk/springstory.

PRIDE OF BRITAIN HOTELS

Veryan-in-Roseland Near St Mawes Cornwall
stay@narehotel.co.uk www.narehotel.co.uk
Tel 01872 50 11 11

The Nare
The country house hotel by the sea

RETIREMENT PROJECT

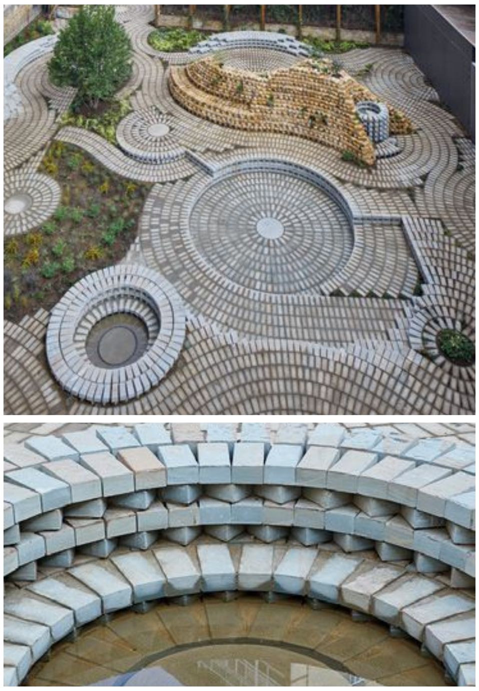
Keep on growing

Communal kitchen gardens and ornamental gardens where residents can become actively involved in their upkeep are a new aspect of the landscaping designs at several retirement properties built by PegasusLife. In the gardens at Chapter House in Lichfield (shown left, which was built on the site of a former friary), herbs, vegetables and flowers are planted in geometric beds, while at Moor's Nook (in Horsell, Surrey), residents can plant up their own flower beds and vegetable patches. **pegasuslife.co.uk**

HOSPITAL GARDEN

Soothe the senses

A new Maggie's Centre for cancer patients is due to open in the grounds of Southampton Hospital at the end of 2018. Inspired by the nearby New Forest, designer Sarah Price has created a forest landscape to surround the building. Heathland flowers and *Molinia* grasses dominate the South Garden while the North Garden is a tranquil space rich with mosses and ferns. **maggiescentres.org**



URBAN ART

Garden in the city

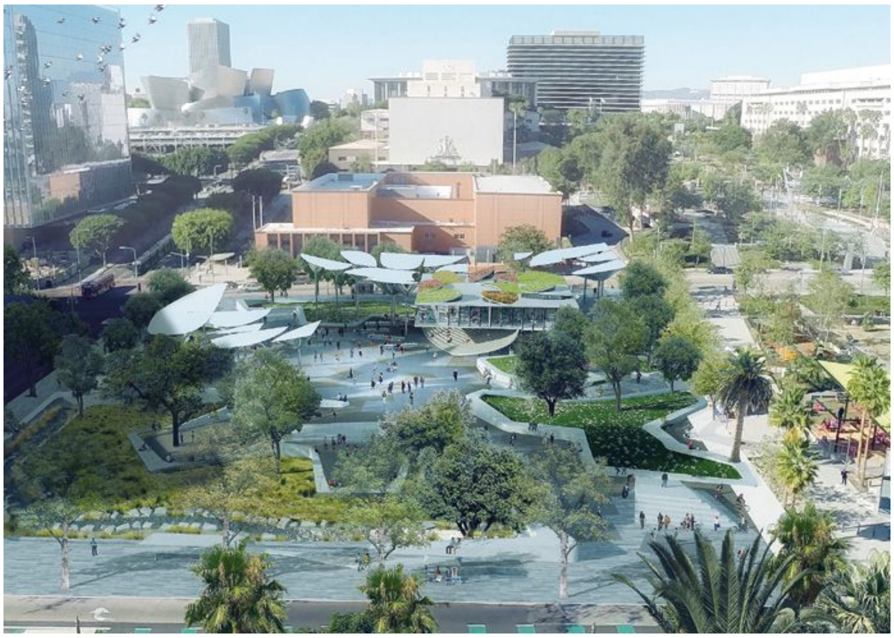
Mexican artist Gabriel Orozco has designed his first public garden for the South London Gallery in Peckham. The sculptural garden is based on the idea of an urban ruin. A series of intertwined brick-edged circles incorporates grasses, low-level creepers and fragrant plants, chosen with advice from Kew horticulturists, to create an overgrown effect over time. The garden, which provides a new planted entrance for the residents of the adjoining housing estate, is open to the public every weekend. **southlondongallery.org**

FIRE STARTER

Place your fire bowl on this striking Corten steel pedestal and it becomes the perfect winter warmer. Available from Harrod Horticultural in two sizes, it also doubles as a wood store. Pedestal prices start from £276 (delivery not included). Fire bowls available separately.

harrodhorticultural.com

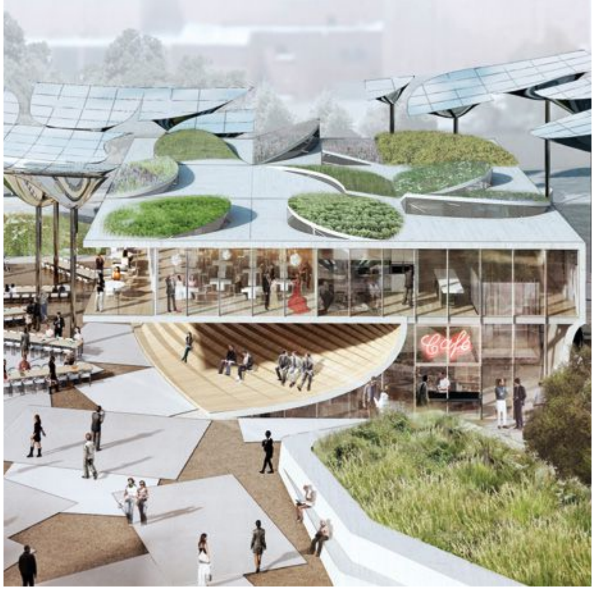
PEGASUSLIFE, AL A, ANDY STAGG



NEW PARK DESIGN

Outside spaces

Landscape architects Mia Leher + Associates and OMA are creating Los Angeles' FAB (First & Broadway) Civic Center Park. Canopies and plantings of mature oak and sycamore will create light and shade to frame the central plaza; a ribbon of low walls will provide informal seating areas and there is also a dining area with a roof garden of edibles.



STRIKE A LIGHT

These textured handmade tea lights offer a rustic-looking alternative to glass or metal holders. Made from clay by historic brick maker Bulmer Brick & Tile, they are fitted with elegant copper liners for the candles, and when bought in sets of three or more they offer creative ways of making striking patterns with their pyramidal shapes. A set of three costs £48, from lanebypost.com

Notebook

- Learn how to establish and maintain different types of wildflower meadow with experts James Hewetson-Brown and Ann-Marie Powell. The one-day talk **Guaranteeing Stunning Wildflower Spaces** takes place at West Dean College, West Sussex on 18 March, 9.30am-3pm, £73. Book at westdean.org.uk
- If you have a garden innovation in mind, the **Design Council Spark 2017** is looking for bright ideas to take through to product development. Entries must be in by 10 January. For more details visit designcouncil.org.uk
- There's still time to enrol on the six-month **Planting Design Diploma** led by Andrew Fisher Tomlin of the London College of Garden Design. Held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the course starts on 19 January for two days per week, with lectures, workshops and studio work as well as nursery and garden visits. lcgd.org.uk
- For ideas on how to create a stylish contemporary garden and attract wildlife at the same time, see the development of the **Eco Garden** at Worsley, Salford, by designer David Keegan. The design has recently won **Best Residential Landscape Design** at the Northern Design Awards 2016. thegardendesigner.blogspot.co.uk
- Visit **Trentham Gardens** in Staffordshire, and explore the all-year-round appeal of the Italian Gardens and the Piet Oudolf-designed Long Borders, the trail of giant woven willow pieces around the lake and much more. On 25 January, garden team manager, Carol Adams, leads a walk for the **NGS** looking at the design techniques of **'Capability' Brown** and how they are being embraced in the new planting schemes. trentham.co.uk

MLA OMA

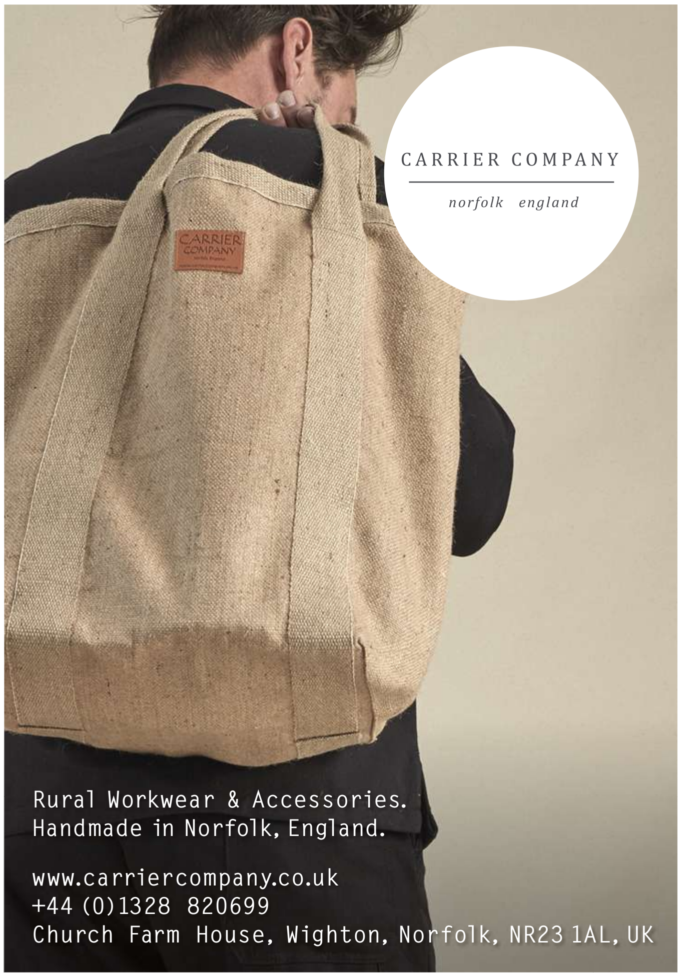
Chelsea Physic Garden
FOUNDED 1673

SNOWDROP DAYS 2017

Sat 28 Jan to Fri 3 Feb, 10am–4pm

See snowdrops in innovative displays around the Garden, enjoy tours of the collection and browse a selection of winter flowering plants for sale.

Sloane Sq/South Ken Bus 170
www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk


CARRIER COMPANY
norfolk england

Rural Workwear & Accessories.
Handmade in Norfolk, England.

www.carriercompany.co.uk
+44 (0)1328 820699
Church Farm House, Wighton, Norfolk, NR23 1AL, UK

twenty twenty
contemporary art and craft

ANGELA HARDING
BLOCK PRINTING KIT

Learn a new, creative skill in 2017!

- High quality Swiss made cutters
- quality 'Heritage' paper
- safewash ink
- soft Japanese vinyl
- newsprint for proofing
- burnishing and ink spreading tools.

'Introduction to Printmaking' by Angela Harding provides detailed instruction and lots of hints and tips to help you achieve great results.

Buy online from **twenty-twenty.co.uk**

TWENTY TWENTY GALLERY 01952 727952

Royal Horticultural Society
Sharing the best in Gardening

The only bespoke swing & bench maker licensed by The RHS

Visit us online at **sittingspiritually.co.uk**
or call us on 01297 443084

SITTING SPIRITUALLY
— *Of Lyme Regis* —

Design trends 2017

With sustainability, wildlife and climate variations coming to the fore in the news, what will be the trend for 2017? We ask the experts for their insights

Rosemary Alexander

EGS*

Designers are using shrubs and multi-stemmed trees to break up existing perennial borders, setting them out between other plants like furniture in a room, singly or in groups. Experiment with pruning to shape, and keep up with improved cultivars on offer, such as *Choisya* x *dewitteana* White Dazzler (='Londaz') or try *Phillyrea* instead of fungus-prone *Buxus*.

Andrew Fisher Tomlin

LCGD*

It's now almost impossible to predict seasonal weather patterns. Rather than being disorientated by this, plant specialists are embracing the opportunity being offered one year to the next by this variation and trying more unusual species, such as the evergreens *Acacia pravissima* and *Westringia fruticosa*, and using restios such as *Baloskion tetraphyllum* alongside traditional grasses.

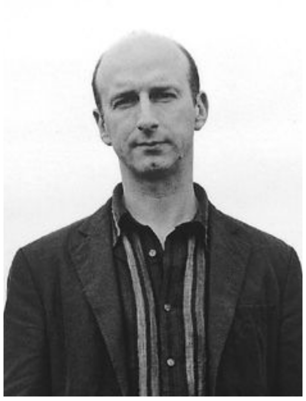
Hilary Thomas

Horticulturist

Very small gardens and roof terraces have become the norm in new developments in towns and cities. Residents require privacy and an instant garden, so pleached hedges and fastigiate trees along with an interesting range of evergreen forms and textures are being used to furnish these smaller spaces.

Nigel Dunnett

Planting designer



We are finally moving out of the New Perennial groove that planting design has been in for the past two or three decades. Increasingly we will welcome, embrace and integrate shrubs into exciting mixed plantings, with more year-round solidity and structure than grasses and perennials alone can provide.

2016 was the year of shock results. Never has the garden been more important as a place of solace, refuge, comfort and somewhere to come together. The role of the garden designer is more important than ever

Annie Guilfoyle

Garden designer and lecturer

*EGS IS THE ENGLISH GARDENING SCHOOL. LCGD IS LONDON COLLEGE OF GARDEN DESIGN

The naturalistic appeal of the New Perennial movement continues its influence, now morphed into the idea of the replication of specific 'plant communities' (what we used to call 'gardens'). But the pendulum is swinging back towards more complexity in the planting regimen – not exactly a return to the pictorial and narrative preoccupations of Arts and Crafts, but a delight in creative plant combination plus the abiding passion for novelty among British gardeners.

Tim Richardson

Garden critic

Designers want to create beautiful gardens that people enjoy, but how about aspiring to create effective designs? Gardens that we know will make you healthier because they are based on scientific research and evidence for what promotes well-being. The information is accumulating, policy-makers are watching and design is improving.

Juliet Sargeant

Doctor-turned garden designer

Our clients are seeking greater sustainability in their gardens with a desire to embrace greater ecology. The planting palettes are becoming more naturalistic with half an eye on catering for wildlife. If this direction continues, I think we'll see less of a dramatic transition from one season to the next with plants straddling more than one season as they are left to die well – and clients becoming tolerant of this.

Marcus Barnett

Garden designer

I believe there is an ever-increasing necessity for a thorough understanding of the process of design and implementation. From client to planner, design team to sub-contractors, communication and collaboration is critical. Projects are often complex inter-disciplinary schemes, requiring experience of procurement and site management, as well as a detailed knowledge of a much wider range of plants.

Marie-Louise Agius

Garden designer

IN	OUT
Future-proof planting	Overly harsh garden lighting
Reflective boundaries	Weeding
White planting to be seen by moonlight	Over-manicured spaces
Traditional perennial borders	Uniformity
Expanding a space with design illusion	The obligatory water feature
Allowing for the influence of nature	Less is more

Andrew Duff

Inchbald School of Design

EYEBROOK WILD BIRD FEEDS

Kick-start your Spring feeding campaign with help from Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds, your local supplier of quality birdseed and accessories. Our delicious birdseed is produced on our beautiful conservation farm in rural Leicestershire using many home grown and locally produced ingredients.

Quality nutritious seeds, suet's and worms all at great value prices available direct to your door, enjoy 10% off your first mail order (quote WL17). View our selection of quality feeders, try our specially blended fledgling mix and stock up on your mealworms ready for the spring breeding season.

www.eyebrookwildbirdfeeds.co.uk
01536 770771

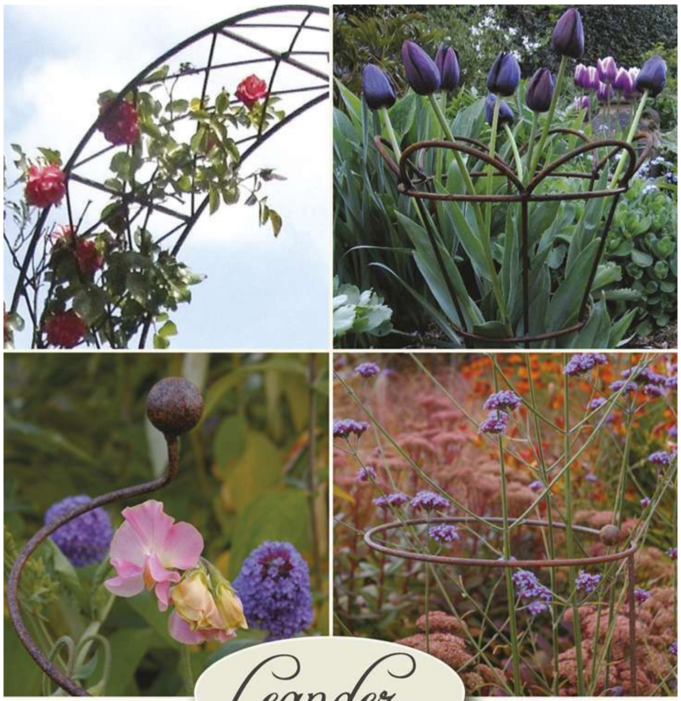
EYEBROOK WILD BIRD FEEDS

Artisan
PLANT SUPPORTS
www.artisanplantsupports.co.uk

A range of beautiful hand crafted steel plant supports and obelisks designed to provide architectural structure within the garden whilst also complimenting and enhancing the plants features.

Visit our website or telephone to request a brochure:

www.artisanplantsupports.co.uk
Email: info@artisanplantsupports.co.uk Tel: 01538 753128
Woodside Farm, Clamgoose Lane Kingsley Moor, Staffordshire ST10 2EG



Leander
Est. 1980

PLANT SUPPORTS

Beautiful designs for herbaceous perennials, roses, shrubs & climbers. Made in England.

www.leanderplantsupports.co.uk
Tel: 01773 550495 for a brochure

keder
greenhouse

For The Serious Gardener

Proven to withstand wind speeds of 140mph

All year round growing

10 Year Guarantee Against UV Degradation
- Superior growing environment
- Unique bubble cladding giving excellent heat retention
- Resistant against extreme weather conditions
- Excellent light transmission
- Low Maintenance
- The strongest and warmest greenhouses for the serious gardener
- Can be extended
- Available in a wide range of sizes

Keder Greenhouses Limited
Newtown, Offenham, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 8RZ

t: +44 (0) 1386 49094 sales@kedergreenhouse.co.uk
www.kedergreenhouse.co.uk @KederGreenhouse

THE SHORT LIST

Hose reels

Nine designs to help tidy away your garden hose

QUICK FIX
Tap Hose Hanger,
£7.50, Garden Trading,
01993 845559, gardentrading.co.uk

ON WHEELS
Waterette,
€660, TradeWinds,
+32 (0)9 375 25 05, trade-winds.be

MODERN DESIGN
Dial Hose Hanger in Red,
AUD $195, Design By Them,
+61 (0)2 8005 4805, designbythem.com

ANTIQUE STYLE
Barkley Avenue Wall Mounted Hose Tidy,
£69.99, Black Country Metal Works,
0800 688 8386, blackcountrymetalworks.co.uk

FUN DETAIL
Reindeer Wallmount,
€277, Garden Glory,
+46 (0)31 221 001, gardenglory.com

SWIVEL MECHANISM
Steel Hose Reel,
£279, Manufactum,
0800 096 0938, manufactum.co.uk

SOLID CAST ALUMINIUM
Garden Hose Rack,
From $51.80, Garrett Wade,
+1 800 221 2942, garrettwade.com

CLASSIC
Galvanised Steel Wall Bracket,
€31.50, De Wiltfang,
+31 (0)346 218 111, dewiltfang.nl

NICE AND SIMPLE
Garden Hose Hanger,
£14.95, All Things Brighton Beautiful,
020 3318 5115, notonthehighstreet.com

COMPILED BY ALYS HURN

Your travel guide

Visiting gardens is one of the best ways to get inspiration, understand what plants grow best in what conditions and also meet other enthusiastic plant lovers. You'll get all this on a garden holiday plus access to some of the very best gardens – with your own expert at hand.

Japan Cherry Blossom Tour

27 March-7 April 2017. Join us for an unforgettable tour, which coincides with Japan's famous cherry blossom season. Experience the ancient temples and exquisite gardens of Japan as well as ultra-modern conveniences such as the Bullet Train. This fabulous itinerary takes in the glorious former capitals of Kyoto and Nara, as well as a moving visit to Hiroshima, the lovely island of Miyajima and a stay near beautiful Mount Fuji before heading to the bright lights of Tokyo. Price: £3,695 per person.

Tel 020 7766 5267 **Web** japanjourneys.co.uk

Brightwater Holidays

Lush gardens, wild islands and jaw-dropping sites, that's what a Brightwater Holiday is made of. Of course, there's a lot more to it than that – the expert guides who lead each and every tour, our friendly team behind the scenes, and a whole host of thoughtfully planned itineraries all play their part, too.

Brightwater Holidays is the UK's leading Gardens and Special Interest Tour Operator. From our little office in Fife, we've been helping individuals, private groups and passionate societies to expand their horizons and fulfil their travel dreams for 25 years. We work hard to arrange the innovative and the special, making it easy to visit that garden, antiquity or island you've always wanted to see. Our holidays are all well planned and paced, often with a twist or a theme. Whether your ideal holiday is to be found in the rugged Scottish Highlands, the bright Dutch bulbfields, the souks of Marrakech, or the jungles of Costa Rica... we can help you find it. Travel with a group of like-minded adults with enquiring minds, and get more from your holiday package.

Contact details

Brightwater Holidays Ltd,
Eden Park House,
Cupar,
Fife KY15 4HS

Tel 01334 657155

Web brightwaterholidays.com

Email info@brightwaterholidays.com

Expressions Holidays

Expressions Holidays, a specialist tour operator that has been organising tailor-made holidays to Italy for over 25 years, offers tours for small groups of up to 14 people per departure to the gardens of Tuscany, the Rome area, the Italian Lakes, the Amalfi Coast, Capri and Ischia, and the Veneto. Each tour lasts for six nights and gives you access, with a local guide, to some of the most outstanding gardens in each of these areas. You travel in a small, luxury coach and your local guide will give you an extensive insight into the gardens, their history and their planting.

2017 departures, from May until September:
Lakes Como and Maggiore (includes Villa Monastero, Villa Melzi d'Eril and Isola Bella)
Environs of Rome (includes Ninfa, Landriana and Villa Lante)
Tuscany (includes Villa Reale di Marlia and Villa Torrigiani)
Amalfi Coast (includes Villa Rufolo, Villa Axel Munthe and La Mortella)
Veneto (includes Villa Barbarigo, Villa Pisani and Villa Rizzardi)

Prices start at £2,250 per person based on a double or twin share and a single occupancy from £300 supplement. Prices include flights with British Airways.

Fully protected by ATOL 3076

Contact details

Tel 01392 441275
Web expressionsholidays.co.uk
Email info@expressionsholidays.co.uk

Expressions

Hindringham Hall Cottages

Two detached, self-catering cottages in the beautiful gardens of Hindringham Hall – the perfect base for a Norfolk holiday. Within an area of outstanding beauty and one of the most popular areas of North Norfolk, equidistant from Blakeney, Holt and Wells and four miles from the beaches and salt marshes of the North Norfolk coast. 5* Moat House offers luxury accommodation for two and Gold 4* Banes Cottage sleeps four. There is a hard tennis court and the gardens are free to guests on open days. For more information and bookings, email info@hindringhamhall.org.

Tel 01328 878226 **Web** hindringhamhall.org

Get InsideJapan

Japan is renowned for the pink of spring cherry blossom, but it has plenty to offer all year round. The Autumnal glow of red acers that light up temple gardens and mountainsides across the country are equally impressive in October and November… and it's less busy. The Japan travel specialists, InsideJapan offer small group tours starting with the ten-day 'Tokaido Trail' costing from £1,350pp (excl. flights) and bespoke self-guided adventures to suit all interests and budgets. Call the Japan experts.

Tel 0117 370 9730 **Web** InsideJapanTours.com

Kirker Holidays

Kirker Holidays provide a range of carefully crafted escorted holidays, with fascinating itineraries designed for those with an interest in gardens and horticulture as well as subjects including history, art, archaeology, architecture and music. Groups typically consist of 12-22 like-minded travellers, in the company of an expert Tour Lecturer, who not only brings the destination to life with illuminating insights but also offers engaging and convivial company throughout the holiday.

Regardless of the destination, Kirker's escorted Cultural Tours and Music Holidays are always carefully designed to offer a balance of expert-led visits and some free time for independent exploration. The itinerary also provides opportunities to visit a range of cultural attractions including the most important museums and art galleries, and several dinners in selected local restaurants.

For those who prefer to travel independently, Kirker also arranges tailor-made short break holidays to classic cities and relaxing countryside destinations throughout Europe and beyond. The Kirker Concierge is on hand to help arrange garden visits with an expert local guide as well as to book opera, concert or gallery tickets and reserve a table at a recommended restaurant.

Contact details

Tel 020 7593 2283

Web kirkerholidays.com

Kirker
FOR DISCERNING TRAVELLERS

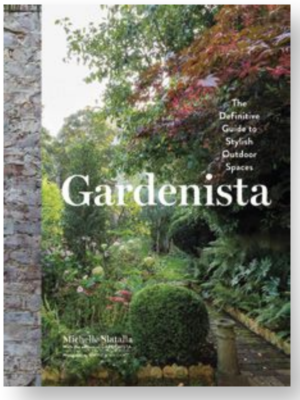
Downtools

Book reviews, crossword, back issues, shop

The herbaceous borders in the garden of this old parsonage in Dorset is a case study in garden colour palettes as discussed in *Gardenista*, reviewed on page 100.

EXTRACTED FROM GARDENISTA BY MICHELLE SLATALLA (ARTISAN BOOKS). COPYRIGHT © 2016. PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Book reviews



GARDENISTA
by Michelle Slatalla
Photographs by
Matthew Williams

Artisan New York, £28.99
ISBN 978-1579656522

A sourcebook of real gardens – selected by design sleuths at Gardenista – that have been created with love and attention to detail.

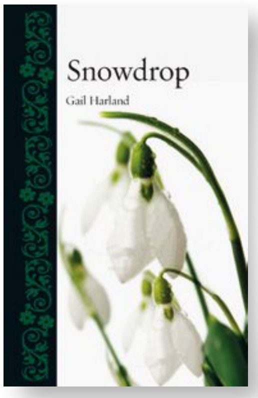
Reviewer Annie Gatti is a garden writer and editor.

This is an image-rich collection of gardens that have featured on gardenista.com since the site's inception in 2012. Stylish is the key word, and although some of the showcased gardens have been made with extravagantly sourced materials and furnishings, there are plenty of more modest elements to make this a useful read for anyone looking for design ideas. The editor's aesthetic is towards relaxed planting, natural materials and salvaged objects. But there are also examples of manicured gardens, modernist spaces and exuberant desert planting in Los Angeles.

Most of the gardens are in the USA and many have been designed by professionals or are owned by designers or architects. As well as offering non-US readers interesting plant choices, such as clipped *Pittosporum,* and drought alternatives to grass, these transatlantic gardens provide tasteful (and non-plastic) storage for hoses and original designs for outdoor showers and fireplaces. The downside is that many of the products mentioned, especially among the 100 favourites, are US sourced. The lack of botanical names can also be frustrating.

Some of the most inspiring case studies are of small spaces, such as the Dutch outdoor kitchen by WWOO, which combines kiln-dried oak furniture with pale-grey concrete kitchen units, and a New York roof top inspired by the High Line. The captions to the photographs underline the importance of detailing to achieving the look you want, whether this is a custom-cut steel edge to contain an area of gravel or a stone platform beside a drain grate that's dressed with potted plants.

Design tips are threaded through the book and there are a number of simple DIY projects but its greatest strength is the wealth of images of resoundingly stylish gardens.



SNOWDROP
by Gail Harland

Reaktion Books, £16
ISBN 978-1780234922

A cultural, social and botanical survey of the snowdrop that is erudite and informative while also being accessible and amusing.

Reviewer John Hoyland is a writer and plantsman.

The term galanthophile refers to those people who are passionate, obsessed even, by snowdrops and the tiny variations found in their flowers. Gail Harland's book will delight galanthophiles but it will also entertain and inform general readers about the genus.

The book is the result of diligent and extensive research that the author obviously enjoyed, the fascination she has for the subject and the pleasure she takes in sharing it evident on every page. The botany of the genus is described with a lightness of touch and an accessibility missing from many a dry monograph. The longest section of the book – the snowdrop in art and design, and in poetry and music – is chronicled in detail, and the use of the plant as a symbol of purity and as a memorial is explored. The book is packed with nuggets of information, such as the flower's rise in popularity after Queen Victoria carried a posy of them at her wedding, and the fact that the spread of *Galanthus plicatus* in Britain was the result of soldiers returning from the Crimean War with bulbs in their kit bags.

Woven throughout the book are the delightful, and sometimes humorous, stories of the men and women who have collected, bred, described and enthused about snowdrops; some larger-than-life eccentrics, others modest and retiring. The portraits Harland pens of these individuals, from the provost of Trinity College to the sister of the Queen Mother, provides a fascinating and inviting view of the world of galanthophilia.

Snowdrop is the latest volume in Reaktion Books' excellent Botanical series, which looks at the social and cultural impact of plants as well as their botanical and horticultural importance, and it joins the rest of the collection as an essential addition to the libraries of both gardeners and plant enthusiasts.

You Should Have Been Here Last Week
Sharp Cuttings from a Garden Writer
Tim Richardson

YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE LAST WEEK

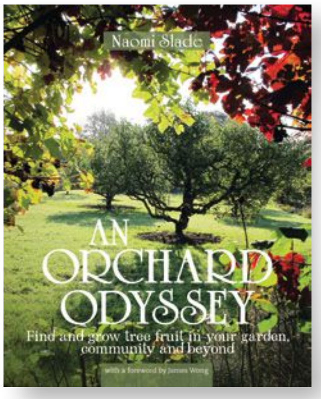
by Tim Richardson

Pimpernel Press, £16.99
ISBN 978-1910258354

A collection of essays and articles by the garden writer, historian and co-founder of the Chelsea Fringe festival, Tim Richardson.

Reviewer Caroline Beck is a garden writer and flower grower.

Tim Richardson says he writes about garden culture rather than horticulture, and this collection distills many of his deliberately provocative pieces, written mainly for the *Garden Design Journal* and *The Daily Telegraph* (in his column, cheekily entitled The Medlar), over the past decade. His breadth of knowledge about garden history, the world of contemporary design and trends in planting styles is undisputed, and the delight with which he skewers his horticultural subjects from the RHS to small gardens (all of which, even his own, he declares to be 'dreadful') can't help but fill you with glee. He's at his absolute best when taking you on a contemplative, cultural tour of an iconic garden, such as Great Dixter, or musing about what makes the landforms of Charles Jencks or Dan Pearson so sensually pleasing, where his knowledge of art, history and culture are woven together seamlessly. For me though, the deliberately irreverent pieces – mainly written for the *Garden Design Journal* from which he was sacked for being too controversial – can be a little wearing, stacking up relentlessly as he takes on anyone and everyone. It's perhaps unfair to be judged on words, even entertaining ones, reaching back more than ten years when the world has changed so much, especially when they've been chosen by the book's editor rather than the writer. His more recent articles are more generous, acknowledging that gardening now involves a wider spectrum of people, especially younger people for whom it's as much about environmental activism as it is landscape design. If you enjoy allowing the serpent into your personal Eden, then this is a hugely entertaining read with pieces that provide just the right amount of venom. However, you may just need to consume them in small bites (and perhaps with a pinch of salt).


Naomi Slade
AN ORCHARD ODYSSEY
Find and grow tree fruit in your garden, community and beyond
with a foreword by James Wong

AN ORCHARD ODYSSEY: FINDING AND GROWING TREE FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN, COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

by Naomi Slade

Green Books, £24.99
ISBN 978-0857843265

A gloriously illustrated book filled with practical advice, and a call to arms on the renewal and conservation of orchards.

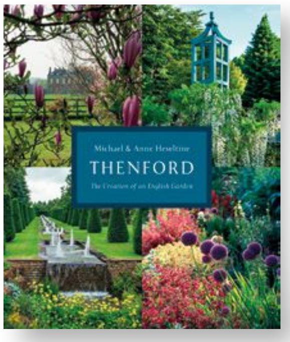
Reviewer Rory Dusoir is a Kew-trained gardener and writer.

An Orchard Odyssey is a broad-ranging look at orchards, their history and their meaning to us as humans. In the face of a sharp decline in traditional orchards the author takes stock of efforts to preserve and revive them and examines how they might take their place in the modern world. Apples are at the forefront of this book (the author confesses to being an apple person, above all else), and the age-old interaction between *Malus sieversii* (one of the ancestral wild apple species) and the human race runs through the book as though a paradigm for man's interaction with nature.

Although the book does cover some practical matters including the design of orchards and maintenance of fruit trees, it is really a book of larger ideas and an attempt to galvanise the interest of its reader into concrete action. This is particularly welcome, as although heritage vegetables have long had their advocates, the diminishing gene pool of fruit varieties has received rather less attention. Yet the genetic diversity of our fruit trees is arguably much harder won and the conservation value of orchards much greater than any field of cabbages. While acknowledging the productivity of modern fruit farms, Slade highlights their vastly reduced contribution to ecology and the landscape, and warns of the perils of persistent in-breeding of stock.

The progression charted by the author, from a sustainable interdependence between ourselves and our environment, towards a destructive dominance, is a depressingly familiar tale. Nevertheless, the author finds much to celebrate in this joyful book – and no doubt she will inspire many to plant a fruit tree of their own.

Book reviews



THENFORD: THE CREATION OF AN ENGLISH GARDEN

by Michael and Anne Heseltine

Head of Zeus Ltd, £40
ISBN 978-1784979737

This story of a garden's transformation by the former Tory minister and his wife will inspire you to keep a gardening diary.

Reviewer Tamsin Westhorpe is a writer, lecturer and gardener.

This is the most comprehensive account of the creation of an English garden that you are ever likely to have the privilege of reading. In their own words, Michael and Anne Heseltine reveal their beautiful garden for the first time, in a wealth of generous detail.

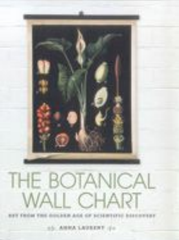
The book gives you a delightful, yet informative insight into the transformation of their Northampton home, Thenford, that began over 40 years ago. Taking on a large estate and turning it into their dream garden saw them face challenges and this led them to work with esteemed horticulturists, such as Roy Lancaster CBE. The attention to detail and the research that they have undertaken is quite incredible. Anne shares her findings on the history of the property and through this you get a real sense of her obvious love and passion for their home.

The book covers everything from the construction of bridges to the planting of over 3,000 trees and shrubs in the 70-acre arboretum. Throughout, you are treated to fun, personal memories such as the time they discovered a stream, which later led to the creation of five ponds. You are party to all aspects of this incredible journey – from digging dirty ditches to selecting dainty flowers.

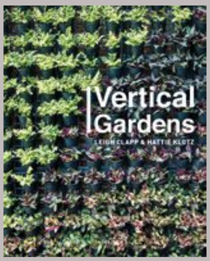
This passionate gardening couple have obviously planned this book for years. They have successfully created a record of their work that will be the envy of many garden creators. The book is made up of professional photographs and family pictures. It may be the size of a coffee table book, but this hardback tome of 320 pages is far more than that. Defining this book is difficult as it offers so much – it's a cross between an autobiography, history book and an exquisite garden journal. For this reason, it will appeal to both gardeners and non-gardeners alike. It's a remarkable book.

Other books

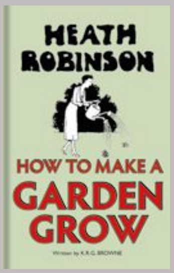
From vintage wall charts and wildflowers to the eccentric's guide to gardening, here are five more new books this month



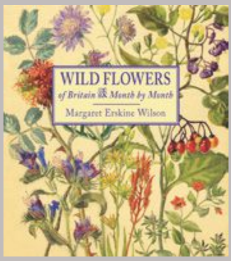
THE BOTANICAL WALL CHART
by Anna Laurent
ILEX, £25
ISBN 978-1781573327
A collection of vintage botanical wall charts to celebrate how the humble teaching tool brought together art, science and education.



VERTICAL GARDENS
by Leigh Clapp and Hattie Klotz
Reed New Holland, £16.99
ISBN 978-1742578798
Full of ideas and advice to help you turn bare garden spaces into living walls, including technical know-how and informative photography.



HOW TO MAKE A GARDEN GROW
by William Heath Robinson
Bodleian Library Publishing, £9.99
ISBN 978-1851244553
A tongue-in-cheek guide to gardening, filled with amusing illustrations by the famous, eccentric cartoonist Heath Robinson.



WILD FLOWERS OF BRITAIN MONTH BY MONTH
by Margaret Erskine Wilson
Merlin Unwin Books, £8.99
ISBN 978-1910723319
A pocket-sized collection of watercolour paintings depicting 1,000 British and Irish wildflowers.

my tiny indoor garden

MY TINY INDOOR GARDEN
by Lia Leendertz
Photography by Mark Diacono
Pavilion Books, £14.99
ISBN 978-1910904992
A collection of gardeners share their stories and offer advice for growing plants indoors.

be
outdoors

Biossun Bioclimatic Pergola with Automated Roof

Outdoor Sofas and Dining Sets

Bespoke Outdoor Kitchens

Cedar Garden Rooms

OUTDOOR LIVING AT CEDAR NURSERY

Come and meet us in Cobham, Surrey or call our friendly, knowledgeable team and discuss our design led range of outdoor living products, open 7 days a week.

- Trees, Shrubs, Conifers & Perennials
- Bespoke Fibreglass and Steel Planters
- Oak Garages & Car Ports
- Cedar Garden Rooms
- Oak Pergolas
- Outdoor Kitchens
- BBQs, Firepits & Kamado
- Le Panyol Wood Fired Ovens
- NEW - Biossun Bioclimatic Pergolas

Help is at hand from our outdoor cooking experts and in-house chartered landscape architects to design and visualise your perfect garden and outdoor entertainment space.

Call	Click	Visit
01932 862473	landscaping.co.uk	Horsley Road, Cobham, KT11 3JX

cedar nursery
KITCHEN IN THE GARDEN

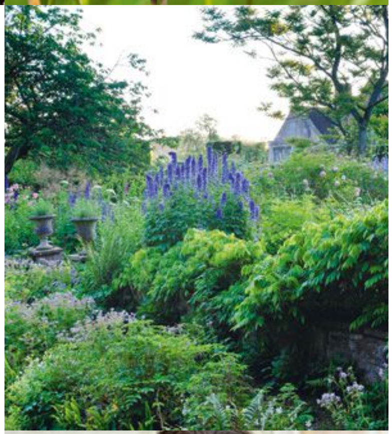
Cedar Nursery
Plants & Outdoor Living

GARDENS
Festival
All
welcome

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

We offer far more than just a magazine, so why not subscribe and be among the first to find out about our **exclusive lectures, reader events, garden holidays, range of products** and the ***Gardens Illustrated* Festival**? You can also listen to our **podcasts** and get the latest updates on our **website,** and follow us on:

For details of how to subscribe see page 30
or visit gardensillustrated.com

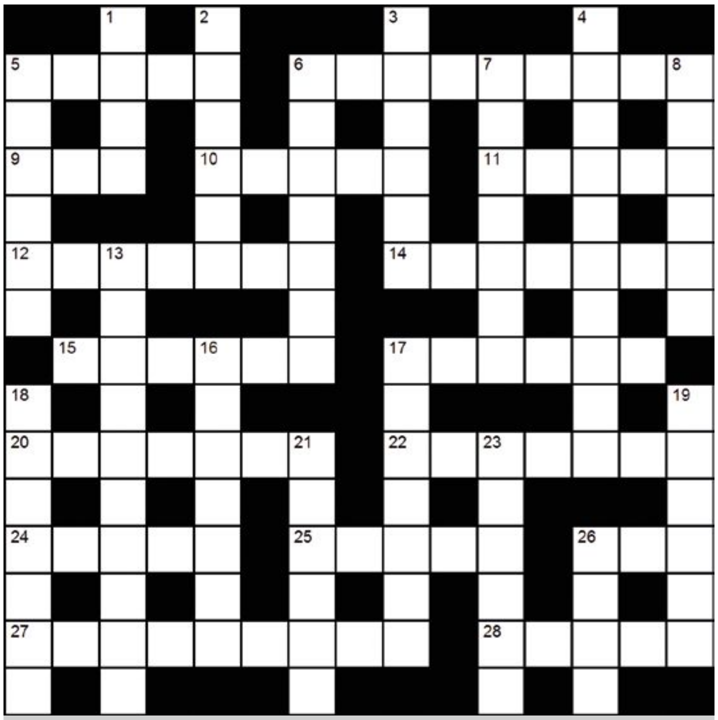


GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
GREAT DIXTER
Anna Pavord reflects on the past decade
BEAUTIFUL AND TOUGH
CAPABILITY BROWN
KEY GARDENING EVENTS IN 2016
LATEST TRENDS in design and planting

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

JASON INGRAM, ANDREW MONTGOMERY, HOWARD SOOLEY, RACHEL WARNE

Crossword



ACROSS

5 Josh: "Separate roots before planting out" (5)
6 Put everything in shoots for grafting … for spring onions (9)
9 Decay results when root is oxygen-depleted (3)
10 Thorny shrub, genus *Ulex*, goes wild around end of September (5)
11 Runs to seed – and locks (5)
12 Plant in the *Iris* family – initially found easier to move (7)
14 Genus of potatoes, tomatoes, etc – on a slum development (7)
15 Plant, genus *Euphorbia*, with milky sap – initially plunged in rush of water (6)
17 Schemes to include time for flowers and shrubs (6)
20 Hazel, maybe, has impudence to form a tree growth (7)
22 South African annual or perennial – ie name's changed (7)
24 Partly desire, note, name of a rhododendron group (5)
25 Type of aquatic lily – a great deal to you and me (5)
26 Conditions required for *Calla palustris* – west, lacking sun (3)
27 Tim queues excitedly for the horsetail genus (9)
28 Trailing/climbing plants (four, that is, south) (5)

DOWN

1 Some nectar tastes sour like crab apples (4)
2 Prevaricates about bushy boundaries (6)
3 Irrigates energy-filled straw, perhaps (6)
4 Fertilises a flower – lost alpine variety (10)
5 Sea-pink's economy? (6)
6 Like a saw-toothed leaf – er, aster, shaken (7)
7 Small, blue-flowering annual – possibly liable to have nothing inside (7)
8 Seed plant said to magically open doors? (6)
13 Aster relative, aka Joe Pye Weed – a true opium, oddly (10)
16 The buckthorn genus makes man rush off (7)
17 Collection of conifer trees (7)
18 Flavour of fennel in some frangipani seedlings (7)
19 A peyote, or opuntia etc (6)
21 Precocious young girl's apricot-coloured tea rose (6)
23 Viral disease mottling leaves – a fragmentary work of art! (6)
26 Another name for 10 across – remove it from within (4)

SOLUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD WILL BE PRINTED NEXT MONTH

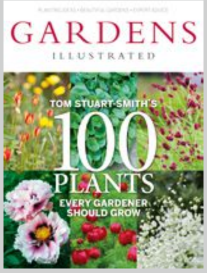
SOLUTIONS TO DECEMBER 2016 PRIZE CROSSWORD

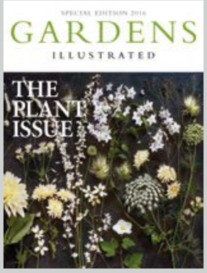
ACROSS 1/22 Christmas Tree **6** Actinidia **11** Wagtail **12** Sprig **13** Barrow **14** Aloe **15** Pistils **16** The Fairy **17** Pergola **19** Exposed **24** Hotbed **26** Grain **28** Potagers **30** Hornbeam **31** Blast **32** Sheath **33** Grub **35** Natural **38** Bearded **40** Foerster **43** Needles **45** Ruby **46** Silica **47** Parch **48** Anemone **49** Mistletoe **50** Scentless.

DOWN 1 Cowslip **2** Ragged Robin **3** Sharp **4** Melissa **5** Sessile **6** Acres **7** Tagetes **8** Noble **9** Dormant **10** Amour **18** Old bean **20** Panda **21** Datisca **23** Ehret **25** Odour **27** Amber **28** Pot **29** Guelder Rose **34** Berries **36** Tar spot **37** Leeches **38** Ballade **39** Dibbers **41** Opium **42** Trail **43** Nurse **44/26** Sweet Gum.

BUYING BACK ISSUES OF GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

PRINT VERSION
You can buy printed issues of the magazine published up to 12 months ago. See below for details.





DIGITAL VERSION
Gardens Illustrated is available as a digital edition – search '*Gardens Illustrated*' on the App Store, Google Play or Zinio.com

GARDENS
Dream gardens

CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES
Cost from £9.50 each (inc p&p). *Subscriber discounts available – see below for details.*

TO ORDER PRINTED COPIES OR SLIPCASES

UNITED KINGDOM	OUTSIDE UK
0844 844 0253	+44 1795 414721

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED PRINTED ISSUES ORDER FORM

Complete the order form and send to: *Gardens Illustrated*, Back Issues, PO Box 279, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DF. (You may photocopy this form.)

SINGLE ISSUES

I would like to order copy/copies of issue(s)

SUBSCRIBERS	NON-SUBSCRIBERS
☐ UK – £4.40 per copy	☐ UK – £5.50 per copy
☐ EU – £5.20 per copy	☐ EU – £6.50 per copy
☐ Rest of world – £6 per copy	☐ Rest of world – £7.50 per copy

CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES

I would like to order slipcase(s)

SUBSCRIBERS	NON-SUBSCRIBERS
☐ UK – £7.50 each	☐ UK – £9.50 each
☐ EU – £8.50 each	☐ EU – £10.75 each
☐ Rest of world – £9.50 each	☐ Rest of world – £12 each

Postage & packaging is included in all prices.

PAYMENT DETAILS

☐ I enclose a cheque/international money order made payable to *Gardens Illustrated* for £

☐ I would like to pay by credit/debit card, please debit my card

Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro ☐

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry date ☐☐/☐☐ Issue no. (Maestro only) ☐☐

Signature Date / /

YOUR DETAILS

Title Forename

Surname

Address

Post/Zip code

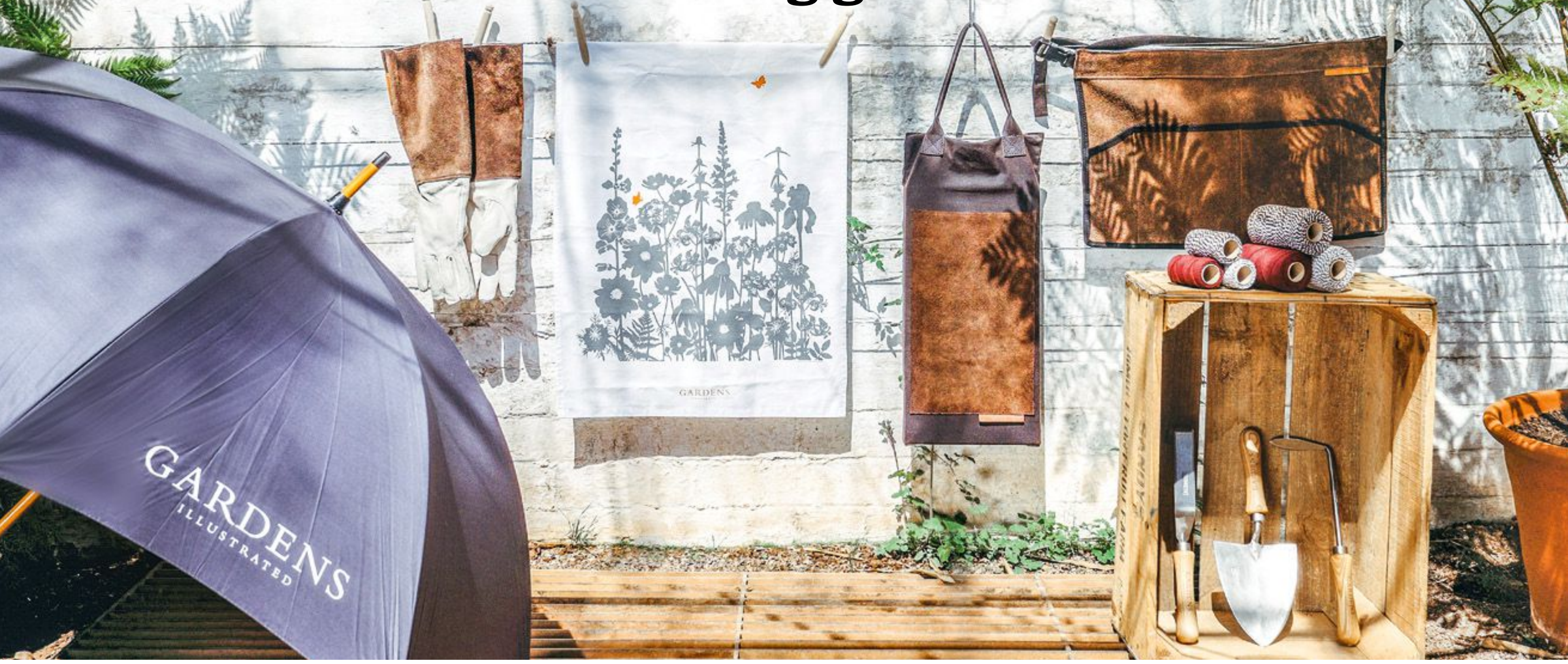
Daytime tel no.

Email address

Subscriber number (if applicable)

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED Shop

Hand-picked, practical products for discerning gardeners



ORDER FORM GI243 PLEASE SEND ORDER AND PAYMENT to: *Gardens Illustrated* Shop, PO BOX 4445, Colchester CO2 8GD.

YOUR DETAILS

Title ______ Initial ____ Surname ______________________________

Address ____

____

__________________ Postcode ______________________________

Mobile ____

Email address ____

Your personal information will be used as set out in our Privacy Policy, which can be viewed at immediate.co.uk/privacy-policy

PAYMENT DETAILS

I enclose a cheque for £___________ made payable to '*Gardens Illustrated* Shop' with my name and address on the back.

Subscriber code (if applicable) ____________________

Or charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro

Card Number

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Start Date ☐☐ / ☐☐ Expiry Date ☐☐ / ☐☐

Switch Issue No ☐☐ Signature ____________________________

Regular price **Subscriber price***

Item	Price		Qty	P&P	Sub-total
Umbrella	£25	£20		£5.00	
Baker's twine 20m (brown & white)	£3.50	£3		£1.50	
Baker's twine 100m (brown & white)	£6.50	£6		£1.50	
Baker's twine 20m (burgundy)	£3.50	£3		£1.50	
Baker's twine 100m (burgundy)	£6.50	£6		£1.50	
Baker's twine 20m (grey & white)	£3.50	£3		£1.50	
Baker's twine 100m (grey & white)	£6.50	£6		£1.50	
Suede apron	£45	£40		£2.50	
Garden kneeler	£30	£25		£2.50	
Anti-bramble gauntlets	£30	£25		£2.50	
	Please add p&p**			Total	£

If ordering multiple products, highest p&p applies

PHOTOGRAPHS: SEAN MALYON; SHOT ON LOCATION AT TYNTESFIELD, NORTH SOMERSET, WITH KIND PERMISSION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST. 0344 800 4966. NATIONALTRUST.ORG.UK

Terms & conditions All prices exclude P&P charges. Please allow 7 working days for delivery. *To receive the subscriber discount please have your subscriber code to hand; for telephone orders you will be prompted for this, for web orders you will find instructions at gardensillustrated.com/subsdiscount. For postal orders please add your subscriber number to the back of your cheque. Your subscriber code can be found on the bag in which your magazine is posted. It begins with 'GILL' and includes 6 digits. Subscriber price is for subscribers only. Your personal information will be used as set out in our Privacy Policy, which can be viewed at immediate.co.uk/privacy-policy

†The cost to call 0344 numbers is the same as calling a normal local or national landline. If your tariff or call package offers free or inclusive calls to landlines, numbers starting with 03 will be included.

Online Visit **gardensillustrated.com/shop243**

We are passionate about providing our readers with products they will love, and the *Gardens Illustrated* shop sells a thoughtfully chosen range of beautiful and useful items, many of which have been developed exclusively for us.

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Umbrella
£25
£20*
(plus p&p)

Twine (from)
£3.50
£3*
(plus p&p)

Apron
£45
£40*
(plus p&p)

Kneeler
£30
£25*
(plus p&p)

Gauntlets
£30
£25*
(plus p&p)

Regular price **Subscriber price***

Telephone Call **0344 245 8098**† **quoting code GI243**

Nursery Collection

SPRING REACH
NURSERY
8

1. RV ROGER LTD

Traditional third generation nursery, growing a huge range of heritage roses, fruit trees and hardy nursery stock in the Vale of Pickering, North Yorkshire. Multiple RHS Gold Medal awards. Mail order available during the bare-root season (November-March). Plant Centre open all year round.

rvroger.co.uk | 01751 472226

4. THORNCROFT CLEMATIS NURSERY

One of the UK's leading mail order clematis nurseries with over 400 cultivars of clematis and other climbers. We grow high-quality plants, offer expert advice and an award winning mail order service.

thorncroftclematis.co.uk | 01953 850407

7. THORNHAYES NURSERY

Quality trees from Devon. Popular with professional and amateur gardeners for an extensive range of fruit and ornamental trees, hedging, choice shrubs and specimen magnolias. Consultancy advice from Kevin Croucher. *St Andrews Wood, Dulford, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2DF.*

thornhayes-nursery.co.uk | 01884 266746

2. TWELVE NUNNS

Buy our winter-flowering 'Harvington Hellebores' now. Over 25 colours and forms to choose from. Plants are sent by post carefully packed and our top growing tips are enclosed.

twelvenunns.co.uk | 01778 590455

5. TREES DIRECT LTD

Mail order trees for your garden or a gift throughout the year. Suppliers of trees and shrubs for planting and giving. January to March is the time to plant bare-rooted trees, shrubs, hedgerow and hedging. Buy one or buy in bulk with delivery to your door.

treesdirect.co.uk | 01584 878878

8. SPRING REACH NURSERY

VISIT SURREY'S FINEST NURSERY. Just five minutes from RHS Wisley. We have the finest-quality, home-grown plants. Our fantastic range includes clematis, trees, hedging, fruit, ferns, shrubs, perennials, roses, climbers and grasses all backed by expert advice.

springreachnursery.co.uk | 01483 284769

3. WOOTTENS OF WENHASTON

Twenty five years' experience growing and propagating high-quality herbaceous perennials as well as preserving many rare plant collections including Pelargoniums, Irises, Auriculas and Hemerocallis. Woottens offer a mail order or collection service, horticultural courses and border designs.

woottensplants.com | 01502 478258

6. TREE SHOP LTD

Local suppliers of high-quality trees and shrubs. Hazel, beech, field maple, quick thorn/blackthorn and many more hedging trees. Silver birch, walnut, cherry, golden locust, and many more unusual trees and plants to choose from. No minimum order. *Monmouth Road, Longhope GL17 0QD.*

tree-shop.co.uk | 01452 832100

9. DAISY CLOUGH NURSERY

Daisy Clough Nurseries specialise in a huge variety of perennials and grasses grown on-site in Lancashire. We are open to the public seven days a week. Quality homegrown shrubs, bedding and vegetable plants always available. *Station Lane, Scorton, Lancashire PR3 1AN.*

daisyclough.com | info@daisyclough.com

Spring Inspiration

Celebrate your garden in style this spring. From beautiful craftsmanship to handmade pots and practical accessories, we can help to make your spring garden special

HEAVY DUTY POLYTUNNELS

Extend your growing season through winter and into spring. Offering excellent frost, rain and wind protection, these heavy duty polytunnels are quick to erect. Available in a range of sizes, all have zipped side panels for easy access when planting out, weeding, feeding and harvesting crops.

Tel **01932 878570**

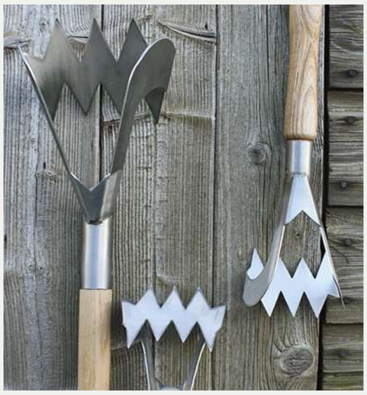
Web **organiccatalogue.com**

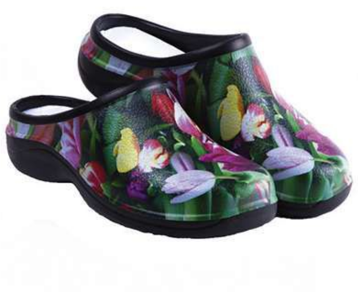
CRAZY HORSE TOOLS

The Zig-Zag hoe with a double edged blade is a unique design made in three sizes. The blade allows for easy movement through the soil with less resistance. The long, shaped handle minimises back strain and feels comfortable in the hand. Made and hand-finished in the North West of England. This quality product will last a lifetime.

Tel **015242 98882**

Web **crazyhorsetools.co.uk**





BACKDOORSHOES

Now that Christmas is over, start the New Year with a fabulous pair of Backdoorshoes®. They are lightweight, waterproof, durable and will help to get rid of any January blues! Leave them by the back door (or front) and slip them on when you need to nip outside. Ladies', men's or children's designs available.

Tel **01202 232357**

Web **backdoorshoes.co.uk**

PERILLA

Fabulously flattering, luxury, alpaca fur hats from online alpaca knitwear specialist Perilla. Alpaca are not killed for their fur. These gorgeous, deep-brimmed hats are unbelievably warm and lightweight. Great colour palette of Taupe, Champagne, Black, Chocolate Brown and Darkest Navy and come beautifully gift boxed. £225.

A gorgeous range of really robust dry waxed and Harris Tweed hats. The hat shown is beautifully made in the Netherlands and can be rolled up and kept in a coat, so perfect for gardening or walking the dog on a rainy day. All hats come in a good range of sizes from 55cm to 59cm. Although Perilla is primarily a sock producer, it has alpaca and cashmere knitwear, home-ware and gifts for most occasions.

Tel **01886 853615**

Web **perilla.co.uk**

gardenature

GARDENATURE

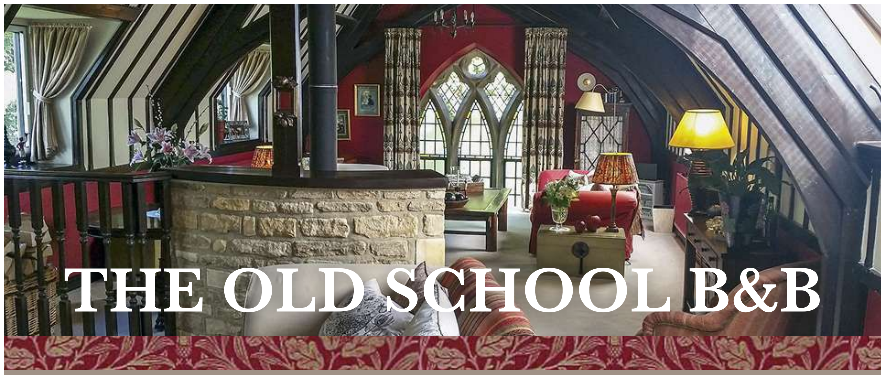
The family-run UK business is a top supplier of high-quality products designed specifically for watching wildlife from the comfort of your armchair, garden or in the wild. Gardenature brings you a diverse range of easy-to-use products including wildlife cameras, animal habitats, scopes and binoculars and garden furniture for public and domestic use.

Now is the time to purchase a nest box ready for *National Nest Box Week,* taking place each year from 14-21 February. NNBW gives you the chance to contribute to the conservation effort in the UK while giving you the pleasure of observing any breeding birds that you attract to your garden. Why not try a camera bird box from Gardenature to see the secret lives of birds building nests and raising their young. Contact us by telephone or visit our website.

Tel **01255 514451**

Web **gardenature.co.uk**

ACCOMMODATION



THE OLD SCHOOL B&B

Set amidst glorious rolling countryside and in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, our North Cotswolds 'home from home' in Little Compton is your great escape – the perfect location for exploring unspoilt villages and historical towns.

"Refreshing, elegant, tasteful, excellent food, warm & charming hosts with an admirable knowledge of the region – enriching one's Cotswold experience..." - Bapsy Datsur, Dubai

"Voted Top 100 Affordable Hotels in the UK" - Alex Polizzi, The Telegraph

"Very special. I could sit upstairs for hours" - Alistair Sawday Inspector

The Old School, Little Compton,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, GL56 0SL

01608 674588 | wendy@theoldschoolbedandbreakfast.com
www.theoldschoolbedandbreakfast.com

tripadvisor®
get the truth. then go.™

VisitEngland ROSE 2016

Gold AWARD

CYCLISTS WELCOME

LE CERF DU BOIS

Luxury 8 person duplex ski apartment in Megeve
www.lecerfdubois.com +44 7831 347222

ACCESSORIES

www.bespokeplantsupports.co.uk

Metal Plant Supports
from £1.50

New Non-Rusty Range Available

Free Delivery on orders over £40

BULBS

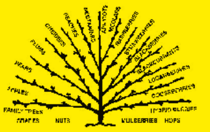
SPING FLOWERING BULBS

SINGLE SNOWDROPS	£9 PER 100
SINGLE SNOWDROPS	£70 PER 1,000
DOUBLE SNOWDROPS	£14 PER 100
DOUBLE SNOWDROPS	£120 PER 1,000
ENGLISH BLUEBELLS	£14 PER 100
CROCUS	£9 PER 100
ACONITES	£8 PER 50
MINIATURE DAFFODILS	£8 PER 50
MINIATURE TULIPS	£8 PER 50
DWARF IRIS	£7 PER 50
SNOWFLAKES	£10 PER 10

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED

P&P FREE
MAKE CHEQUES &
POSTAL ORDERS PAYABLE TO
ANGLIA BULBS,
LORDS LANE, WISBECH,
CAMBS PE13 4TU
TEL: 01945 410966
ALL BULBS TOP QUALITY

DEACONS NURSERY



NATIONAL FRUIT
TREE SPECIALISTS

50% OFF ALL APPLES
OFFER ENDS 15/01/17

NATIONWIDE DELIVERY
Moor View, Godshill, Isle of Wight
PO38 3HW
Tel: 01983 840750 (24hrs) / 522243
www.deaconsnurseryfruits.co.uk

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

CONSERVATORY BLINDS

HILLARYS
You'll love what we do

BLINDS | CURTAINS | SHUTTERS | CARPETS

TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR
CALL **0800 389 1658** OR VISIT **HILLARYS.CO.UK**

*T's & C's apply

EDUCATION

The Horticultural Correspondence College

Gardening Courses

Home-study

- For leisure or for a career
- Over 30 courses in Gardening, Garden Design, Arboriculture, Forestry, Floristry and more
- Many courses prepare you for RHS or RFS/ABC quals.

Free info FREEPHONE 0800 083 9191 or 01409 220 777
Or email: info@hccollege.co.uk www.hccollege.co.uk

FURNITURE

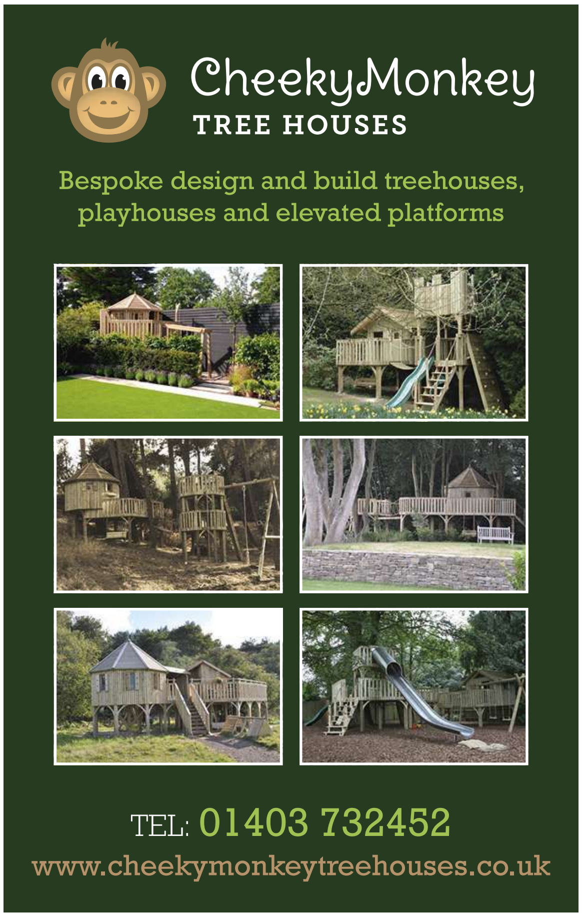
Freitaslaf net ltd
Your Furniture Place whaplode Spalding

www.freitaslaf.net | 01406 373 068

Discount code NBED2017

GARDEN BUILDINGS

A Unique & Functional Addition
TO YOUR PROPERTY
A timeless design built with modern technology and know-how using the finest craftsmanship and materials
Port Townsend Shepherd Huts
PTHUTS.COM
Delivery to anywhere in the US and Canada


CheekyMonkey
TREE HOUSES
Bespoke design and build treehouses, playhouses and elevated platforms
TEL: 01403 732452
www.cheekymonkeytreehouses.co.uk

GARDEN SOLUTIONS

© Wet & Forget 2015
WET&FORGET mould lichen & algae REMOVER
- No Bleach
- No Water Blasting
- No Caustic Materials
- No Elbow Grease

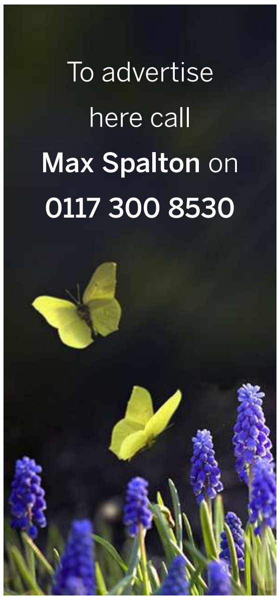
WET&FORGET®
Moss, mould, lichen and algae remover
Just spray and walk away...our product works so you don't have to!
Tel: 0800 999 3309
www.wetandforget.co.uk

PLANTS

Chrysanthemums Direct
Holmes Chapel Road,
Over Peover, Knutsford,
Cheshire. WA16 9RA
0800 046 7443 sales@chrysanthemumsdirect.co.uk
2017 Catalogue available online **NOW** or, contact us to receive your FREE paper copy.
The widest range available to U.K. growers with over 420 varieties, for the garden and exhibition, all grown from clean stock on our nursery in Cheshire.
Etta Dakin
an excellent new variety for 2017
www.chrysanthemumsdirect.co.uk

GREENHOUSES

GREENHOUSES
Top brand greenhouses at factory direct prices
The Greenhouse People
Blythe Park, Cresswell,
Stoke-On-Trent ST11 9RD
0800 083 9631
for FREE brochure pack
www.greenhousepeople.co.uk


To advertise here call
Max Spalton on
0117 300 8530

PUBLISHERS

LOOKING TO BE PUBLISHED?
SUBMISSIONS AND SAMPLES WELCOMED.
ALL WORK CONSIDERED,
NO AGENT REQUIRED.
AUSTIN MACAULEY
PUBLISHERS LTD.
CGC-33-01, 25 Canada Square
Canary Wharf, London, E14 5LQ
Tel: 0207 038 8212
www.austinmacauley.com
mail@austinmacauley.com

GARDEN DESIGN

FIONA STEPHENSON DESIGNS
fiona.g.stephenson@gmail.com | 0044(0) 7976 723 164

SEED SELLERS

Seeds of more than 3700 different species and varieties
www.jelitto.com
Jelitto
Chocolate Cosmos
STAUDENSAMEN · PERENNIAL SEEDS · GRAINES DE PLANTES VIVACES
Production · Breeding · Seed Technology
UK Office: Meadows (Fenton) Ltd · PO Box 78 · St Ives, Huntingdon · Cambs PE27 6ZA
Phone (01480) 46 35 70 · Fax (01480) 46 60 42 · www.jelitto.com · angela@jelitto.com

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?® LIVE

sponsored by ancestryDNA®

THE NEC **BIRMINGHAM**
6-8 APRIL 2017

THE WORLD'S LARGEST FAMILY HISTORY SHOW!

- Enjoy our dedicated **Military history zone**
- **Fantastic workshops & exhibitors** to help your family search
- **Expert advice** on how to get started
- **FREE access** to billions of records
- A fun day out for all the family and **children go FREE**

BOOK TICKETS NOW

whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com

or call **0844 873 7330** CALLS COST 7P PER MINUTE PLUS NETWORK EXTRAS. LINES OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY

VILLE ORANGE
MARMALADE
FEB 2016.

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

FEBRUARY ISSUE

- Rosemary Alexander chooses her top 100 plants
- Dalemain Marmalade Awards and Festival
- Create your own plant protection
- The first of our four seasonal visits to Mary Keen's Cotswold garden
- 21 of the most beautiful camellias

ANNAICK GUITTENY; ANDREW MONTGOMERY; JASON INGRAM

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Dream gardens

ON SALE 2 FEBRUARY

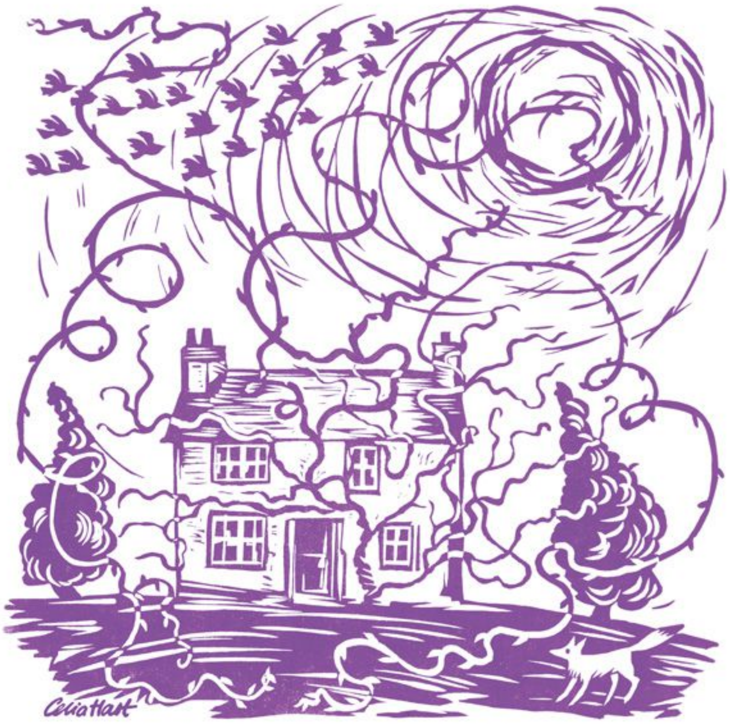
Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition – see page 30.
Also in selected Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Tesco stores,
as well as WHSmith, and all good magazine retailers.

January blues

A new year brings for Frank the pleasures of pruning an old blue-flowered friend, and with it memories of another treasured friend

WORDS **FRANK RONAN** ILLUSTRATION **CELIA HART**

Fine winter days should be reserved for the pleasurable things. For me that means pruning, and the most satisfying delight in that line of work is pruning wisteria. To be cut back at this time is the one essential service that wisteria demands, and the books may say January or February, but if you let it slip to February you may let it fall through the fingers of that very short month as well and your wisteria will sulk and be lost to you, for a while at least. Every summer attention helps, of course, but, whether or not you had time for them, you absolutely have to make time for this, for it is the only way to get the proper gnarly framework bursting with violet fireworks.



Ours is a small house and one wisteria could smother a palace

The task could not be simpler. You cut everything that grew last summer, which is everything smooth and unwrinkled, back to two buds. If you had neglected the summer work there may be a bit of unwinding and gutter-rescuing involved. Your perch should be steady – there are very well designed ladders now that have a wide base and big grippy feet and devices to adjust the angle to take account of uneven ground. And you must keep an eye out for wires. I have a notch in the blade of my favourite secateurs from cutting through a live cable three stories up. Luckily I was younger then and quick enough to grab something before the bang had blown me and the ladder beyond the point of recovery. Now I couldn't be sure of that, but hope wisdom has replaced agility and caution will save me.

Frank Ronan is a novelist who gardens in both the UK and USA.

Wisteria was the first thing I planted when we moved to Bockleton. They can take a while to settle and you can't plant them soon enough on occupying a house that lacks one, which no house should. That plant was just getting going when its sudden death coincided with the presence of a psychotic builder who thought it funny to dump noxious residue in inappropriate locations. Undaunted (it was not the worst of his crimes) I planted three more (once he was safely out of our lives) spaced along the front of the house. Ours is a small house and one wisteria could smother a palace, so that may have been an overreaction, but I have not regretted it, yet.

In America all you hear about wisteria is regret. Particularly in the southeast where the Asian forms have become an ecological menace. They have their own native species, which are a little dull and unfragrant for garden purposes. Having said which, it is worth taking a trip along the 40 in April, down through the Ozarks and into the Carolinas, just to see forests draped in *Wisteria frutescens*. So they are fortunate to have that, and we are fortunate to be able to festoon our houses with *W. sinensis* and *W. floribunda* and with guilt-free impunity.

For me, and for our English house, the basic form of *Wisteria sinensis* seemed best. I'm not inclined towards the white kind nor sure it works so well on a building, though I have put it on posts in the middle of the fruit garden, which is a bit of a scent trap, in the possibly erroneous belief that the white smells even stronger than the original.

For about five minutes I toyed with the idea of planting *W.* 'Burford' on the side wall, but it would have looked ridiculous on a house the size of ours, with flowers longer than the windows. And would only have been done out of sentimentality. Whenever I see it I think of the original plant on Burford House when I first came to this part of the world in the twilight days of that garden's glory and sitting beneath the tresses on the terrace in the sunshine gossiping with John Treasure and watching for the coast to be clear so that he could cadge one of my cigarettes and his illicit bliss. □

SALE TIME
BROWNS
UP TO
30% Off
1922
COME RAIN OR SHINE IT'S GARDENING TIME

gabriel ash
Tradition & Technology

Royal Horticultural Society
Sharing the best in Gardening
The only greenhouses endorsed by the RHS

Traditional Cedar Greenhouses
Enhanced by Technology

Auto Ridge Vents | Aluminium Cappings, Gutters & Down Spouts | Aluminium Plinth | Toughened Safety Glass

MADE IN BRITAIN

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT MAKES GABRIEL ASH GREENHOUSES SO SPECIAL
CALL 01829 271 890 OR VISIT www.gabrielash.com

THE HARTLEY
SALE
VICTORIAN VILLA
HANDMADE IN ENGLAND
NULLI SECUNDUS

HARTLEY BOTANIC

HANDMADE WITH PRIDE SINCE 1938

For The Hartley Sale prices call 0800 783 8083 or visit www.hartley-botanic.co.uk

THE FINEST GLASSHOUSES MONEY CAN BUY